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SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

FREE PUFF Bernard Levin defends Claudia. and other smokers

Introducing new comic for kids THE SATURDAY TIMES - YOUR COMPLETE SEVEN-SECTION READING PACKAGE FOR APPERIEUT WITH THE TIMES FOR ONLY 10P EVERY

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Heseltine and Patten attack Hague



AND ANDREW PIERCE

SECRE

When

bands play

for their

METRO

MICHAEL HESELTINE yesterday launched another damaging attack on William Hague, plunging the Tory party into even deeper crisis after its humiliating defeat in the

Winchester by-election. The former Deputy Prime Minister reopened Tory divisions over Europe by giving his full backing to Peter Temple-Morris, the pro-European MP, who resigned from the Conservatives yesterday after having the party whip withdrawn.

Mr Hague's difficulties were compounded last night when Chris Patten, the former Hong Kong Governor, also delivered a thinly veiled attack on his leadership, Tory split reopened over Europe

warning him not to be "nationalistic". In a magazine article, the former party chairman calls on Mr Hague to do more to stamp his mark on the political landscape and warns that he will prolong his spell in opposition unless he takes a more pragmatic approach on Europe.

As the Tories were struggling to come to terms with the by-election result in Winchester when Mark Oaten, the Liberal Democrat saw his majority soar from two votes to 21,000. Mr Heseltine openly criticised the Tory leader for removing

the whip from Mr Temple-Morris. "I think it's an unwise and unnecessary decision. Peter Temple-Morris has loyally supported Conservative prime minister one after the other as they sought to establish Britain's self-interest in Europe," he said.

"He represents a stream of opinion within the Conservative Party that we should seek to encourage, not to divorce.

Mr Heseltine rocked the boat earlier this month, when he criticised Mr Hague's decision to take such a hard-line on the single currency, by

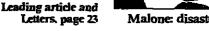
ruling it out for ten years.Mr Patten went further, in an article in The World in 1998, which is published by The Economist.

He wrote: "Mr Hague should avoid the nasty rightwing nationalism found elsewhere in Europe. Being tainted with it would ensure only that Mr Blair's tenure of his present position is much longer than Mr Hague would like."

Tory strategists were determined to bolster morale after the disastrous result in the Winchester by-election suffered by Gerry Malone, the for-

mer Aberdeen Tory MP. There was little comfort either from the Becken-ham by-election where Jacqui Lait scraped home with a much reduced majority of 1,227.

But the party's tactic to take revenge and boost Mr Hague's authority by withdrawing the whip from Mr Temple-Morris backlired. The MP for Leominster, who has been threatening to defect to Labour. immediately announced his resignation and said he would sit as an independent Conservative on the Labour benches despite several attempts by Tony Blair to make him go the whole way and join the Labour





Malone: disaster poll

Child sex police raid two public schools

By Stewart Tendler and Paul Wilkinson

schools were raided yesterday paedophile and child pornogdetectives in a national police operation against a suspected child pornography

Sedbergh School in Cum-· bria and Durham School were among 15 addresses visited in dawn raids. Homes in London, Hampshire, Merseyside, Surrey, West Mercia and Wiltshire were also searched during an investigation codenamed Operation Clarence.

The suspects include three teachers and a former teacher but senior detectives said that the investigation is not centred on schools. They said the suspects came from a variety of backgrounds and a severa of them knew each other. Police refused to comment on any links with a series of raids on provate schools over the past two years or investigations into sex tourism in

countries such as Thailand. No arrests were made yes-terday but police said a large quantity of films, papers and camputer material was seized for examination. Police have yet to discover whether they are dealing with a suspected distribution perwork or whether material has been photographed or filmed by

As police began sifting through the shaterial, officers

32
32
24
23, 61
25
22
21
.26-31
51-64
.33-43
,
21-23
8-10
.25-33



TWO leading Northern public from Scotland Yard's raphy squad, which led the operation, said hundreds of video films were taken for

Jim Reynolds, head of the

School and a private house.

can confirm that the police have requested the school's cooperation in certain inquiries they are conducting. As yet we have not been made aware in detail of the reasons for the inquiries. The school continues to function normally."

clude a home in Donhead St Andrew, south of Salisbury. Hampshire police made a number of searches and material was taken. One address was searched in Merseyside but nothing was seized. Videos were taken from an address in Worcester by West Mercia

also checked but nothing was taken. In London police raided addresses in Harrow, Cheam. Islington, Croydon and Albany Street near Regent's Park.

Police are known to have launched investigations into links between private schools and child pernography after allegations from a former teacher at Abberley Hall in Herefordshire in 1995. Last year two staff at Hurstpierpoint College in Sussex were dismissed after being given a police caution for possessing

In August this year the body of Adrian Stark, director of music at St John's School. Leatherhead, Surrey, was found at the base of Beachy Head after he had been charged with three charges of possessing indecent pictures of children. He had formerly



squad/said: This is a major operation that has been going on for about three years. This is a result of intelligence gathering by all the forces involved and a quantity of material has been seized, inclading videos, computer equipment and corresmondence. I am hopeful this will lead to prosecutions and further intelligence.

Sedbergh, which has 344 boys and fees of more than £12,000 a year, was attended by former England rugby captain Will Carling. Durham is a mixed school with 134 pupils and fees over £10,000.

Cumbria police said material was taken from living quarters at Sedbergh which is not an area used by pupils. Material, including video tapes and other equipment seized from Durham

Christopher Hirst, the head-master of Sedbergh, said: "I

Other addresses raided in-

An address in Surrey was

ndecent material.



SUSPECTED hacker charged with breaking into US Air Force computers causing damage estimated at £300,000 walked free from court vesterday.

Mathew Bevan, 23, smiled as he left Belmarsh Crown Court, south-east London, with representatives of a tabloid newspaper six months after a London teenager, Richard Pryce, was fined £1,200 for admitting similar offences carried out when he was sixteen.

Prosecutors decided it was not in the public interest to pursue a costly case expected to last up to three months involving witnesses flown from America to give evidence against Bevan, the son of a Fraud Squad detective.

The decision comes three and a half years after two hackers codenamed Kuji and Datastream Cowboy used the

By MICHAEL EVANS

AND NICHOLAS WOOD

THE ARMY now owns more

horses than tanks, a Govern-

ment "Domesday Book" of

national assets will reveal.

The register, to be published

by the Treasury, is expected to

show that on April I there

were 396 Challenger tanks

Horses are the only live

assets in the list because they

have a value of more than"

Not included are the

Army's 1,300 dogs and regi-

mental mascots - two goats.

one black buck, one ram, two

and 483 horses.

£500 each.

Laboratories, the US Air Force's premier command and control research facility at Griffiss Base in New York. Sources close to the US investigation said the intrusions had "serious implica-

tions" but did not involve national security. According to report to the US Senate Affairs Committee the intruders gained access in March 1994 to unclassified files held at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Centre and computers belonging to Lockheed.

Pryce, from Colindale, north London, who went on to win a scholarship to study the double bass at the Royal College of Music, was fined after he admitted 12 charges of gaining unauthorised access under the Computer Misuse Act. Magistrates heard that he "caused more harm than the

Another institution alleged-

Shetland ponies, one wolf-

hound, one drum horse, one

The ratio of horses to tanks

in the Army has varied since

the Second World War, from

the days when there were

mule packs as well as horses.

and some colonial armies

were mounted. The Army

used mules to deliver food

and other stores to British

troops during the early peace-

keeping days in Bosnia but

they were hired locally. The register will list every

government department's

possessions that have any

The MoD will take up half

ferret and a tiger.

ly penetrated by the pair was Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio, where wilder elements among UFO conspiracy theorists believe alien spacecraft are secretly held. Bevan, who cheerfully ac-

knowledges being obsessed with aliens, nevertheless denied three charges of gaining unwarranted access to USAF and Lockheed computers between March and May 1994. The charges related to the alteration of data by the alleged insertion of a "snifter" program designed to gain

access to systems. The investigation was carried out by Scotland Yard's specialist Computer Crime Unit and the US Air Force's Office of Special Investigations (OSD.

Initial charges of conspiracy against the pair were discontinued at an earlier hearing.

For everyone on the move The hacker's world, page 4

WEEKEND Army horses outrank tanks

the register of assets because

of its huge stock of properties

more than 90,000 — as well

as its weapon systems and

training land, Gordon Brown.

the Chancellor, will use the

register to pave the way for a

However, the main area for

cuts at the MoD will be in its

portfolio of properties and

estates. The Armed Forces

have already faced significant

Apart from the 386 Chai-

lengers, there are 386 of the

new Challenger 2 tank on

order but when they come

into service they will replace

curbacks in equipment.

new round of state sell-offs.

Vision

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plans to cut benefits for the

6.5 million disabled people in

Britain and force many into

work. Ministers confirmed that

the Government was drawing

up proposals to restructure

the five main benefits for the

sick and disabled as part of the

The main objective is to try

Treasury's spending review.

to get as many people as pos-

sible into work so that benefits

can be concentrated on those

with the most severe handi-

caps. Options being consi-

dered include taxing, means-

testing or time-limiting some

benefits and replacing others

with insurance-based schemes.

But the plans, backed by

Gordon Brown and Harriet

'She looked more at ease with herself than she has done for years'

Alan Hamilton on the Queen, PAGES 8 and 9



'i always fall in love with people I work with'

Valerie Grove meets Sally Potter, PAGE 21



'i may grow a Hemingway beard'

> Ken Clarke on his new image.

Campaigners for disabled reject plan to cut benefits

The Government wants to concentrate state help on abled yesterday reacted strongly against government

the most severely handicapped. Jill Sherman reports

Harman, the Social Security Secretary, which are still at an early stage, have already caused a row in the Cabinet. Frank Dobson, the Health Secretary, and John Prescott. the Deputy Prime Minister. are said to be strongly opposed to many of the suggestions, and the Liberal Democrats have called for a full Commons debate on the issue. Lorna Reith, director of the Disability Alliance, an umbrella group for 300 disabled groups, said: "We are appalled that the Government is prepared to consider options that will reduce the living

standards of disabled people

so drastically. We are very concerned that if they remove disability benefits from disabled people who work it will make it impossible for them to continue working."

Mencap, representing menhandicapped people.
The reality is people have low incomes and high expenses. The facts are against the Government and the public will be against them. For a severely disabled person not in employment, total benefit levels are a small fraction of the earnings non-disabled workers take for granted." Lord Morris of Manchester,

a long-time campaigner for

also furious about the plans. The former Labour MP pointed out that disabled people had had no real income increase since 1980, when the Government broke the link between benefits and prices. He also insisted that all disabled people would prefer to be in work than on benefit. "There is not a single person who would not prefer to have

the disabled and the architect

of many of their benefits, was

urity," Lord Morris said. The disability bill has risen from £4.1 billion in 1982 to

the independence and dignity

of the taxpayer rather than

dependence on social sec-

now responsible for nearly a quarter of the £100 billion social security bill Ministers are determined not only to curb the growth but to cut the bill by trying to get more disabled people into work.

صكذا من رلاميل

A spokesman from the Department of Social Security said: "Ministers want to ensure that the DSS helps those who can get into work get into work, and gives appropriate support to those who cannot get into work."

Alistair Darling, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said that any future proposals would be entirely consistent with manifesto pledges. People supported us because with manifesto we were prepared to review government spending right

NEWS IN BRIEF

Hague declines to name Tory donors

William Hague has rejected a challenge from Tony Blair to disclose the names of donors who have given money to the Conservative Party in recent years. Mr Hague said in a letter that it would "dishonourable" to release details of people who

had given money on a confidential basis.

The Labour leadership hopes to overcome its recent embarrassment over its U-turn on tobacco sponsorship, and a donation to the party from the Formula One chief, Bernie Ecclestone, by focusing on the Conservatives' refusal to disclose details about its donors. In the Commons this week, Mr Blair offered to name Labour's donors going back ten years if the Tories would do the same; Mr Hague refused to be drawn. Mr Hague has now rejected the Prime Minister's challenge in his letter to Mr Blair yesterday, which was copied to Sir Patrick Neill, the standards watchdog.

Bruno marriage denial

Frank Bruno, right, the former world heavyweight boxing champion, has denied wild allegations in the press that his marriage was assaulted his wife. The denial by Mr Bruno, 36, of Stondon Massey, near Brentwood, Essex, came a day after Laura Bruno, 34, went to the High Court to obtain an order banning her husband from "assaulting, molesting or harassing her".



Legal aid reform pledge

The Government pledged to end the legal aid system as a "machine primarily for paying lawyers' bills" when it unveiled new details of plans to scrap civil legal aid and bring in "no win, no fee" work. In a attack on the £1.6 billion legal aid scheme as a "subsidy for lawyers". Geoff Hoon, parliamentary secretary at the Lord Chancellor's Department, said money which could be spent on the sick and injured was being "gobbled up in legal aid".

A-level appeals move

Leading girls' schools are calling for a review of A-level procedures because they fear that pressure from parents on schools to challenge grades is threatening the credibility of the examination. The number of appeals has risen sharply in recent years. London-based members of the Girls' Schools Association have demanded action to reduce the number of appeals and to tighten up marking sufficiently to cut the proportion of candidates being upgraded.

Hospital deaths inquiry

Police are investigating an allegation that elderly, terminally ill patients in a ward at the psychiatric Kingsway Hospital, Derby, were starved until they became so weak that they died from infections. A member of staff is understood to have reported suspicions about the deaths in a ward where many patients suffer from dementia and are difficult to feed Derbyshire police and South Derbyshire Mental Health Trust confirmed that the investigation began a formight ago.

Hostage warder freed

Prison staff equipped with riot gear stormed an office where a warder was being held captive after fears for his safety suddenly mounted. The prison officer had been held for more than 18 hours by two inmates at a young offender institute. He received cuts and bruises and was badly shaken during the operation at D-wing of the Castington secure unit near Morpeth in Northumberland. Both prisoners, who were not

Kennel maid 'had CJD'

A 20-year-old woman is thought to have become the 22nd person to die from a form of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease linked with eating contaminated beef. Vicky Rimmer, of Connah's Quay, Aberconwy, had been in a coma for four years. Her body has been sent to Edinburgh for a post-mortem examination by a specialist CJD unit. Doctors believe that Miss Rimmer, a kennels worker, was infected by new-variant CJD, which strikes its victims at a much younger age.

Man fined for shouting

A man who screamed at his wife so loudly that her hearing was permanently damaged was fined £450. Plymouth Crown Court was told that Peter Pryor, 58, who suffers from tinnitus, shouted at his wife, Christine: "I am going to make you suffer like I do." Judge Jeremy Griggs ordered Pryor. who had denied assault causing actual bodily harm, to carry out 150 hours' community service. The couple divorced last

MP attacked by dogs



left, was recovering yester-day after two lurchers attacked him while he was jogging in a London park. "I had one literally hanging off my arm by his teeth, while the other started tearing into my thigh," said the 61-year-old MP for Bootle, who spent five hours in casualty being given stitches. "I was left with blood running down my leg and in quite a state of

Manor from heaven

Richard Spurgeon, the manager of Colchester Zoo, has been given a 32-room house set in 12'2 acres. The house, Meadow Croft in Earls Colne, Essex, had been left to its housekeeper, Jean Last, by a local businessman. Ruben Hunt, with an instruction that she give it to charity. Miss Last could find no observe willing to take the property on and an experit to Mocharity willing to take the property on and so gave it to Mr Spurgeon, who has a wife and two children. His mother Pat used to deliver groceries to the house.





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Churchill's wartime car up for sale

Europe, so the car might, unfortunately, leave Britain." Churchill had a curious

attachment to his Austin, one

of the most unprepossessing models of the pre-war years

and manufactured at a time

when Rolls-Royce, Daimler,

Beutley and Lanchester were all making majestic models with worldwide reputations

for quality and performance.

Reputation obviously did not

matter to Churchill as much as reliability, or perhaps he

had high regard for Herbert Austin, founder of the

Birmingham carmaker and a resolute patriot.

In any event, the logbook shows Churchill's signature as the first owner, taking delivery of EYH 409 on June 3, 1938. The little four-door is

hardly luxurious, its red

leather interior no more than

spartan and the sit-up-andbeg driving seat seemingly too small for Churchill's

ample frame. Even the ash-

tray seems hardly big enough to cope with his

legendary cigars, though there is a sliding sunroof and

Power was also not a

premium feature: the car's

1.125cc, four-cylinder could generate only 10 horse power so a fair wind at the rear

would be needed to struggle

past the 40mph mark. The

Austin did have one exclusive

feature: a new type of pressed

folding windscreen.

IT WAS hardly stately transport for a wartime leader of Churchill loved his little Austin. so much so that he refused to exchange it for some-thing more ostentatious.

When Lady Churchill decided to trade the black Austin 10 in for a grander model befitting her hus-band's position, he ordered her to go back to the dealer and bring his Austin home. Now the car which cap-tured the affections of Britain's wartime Prime Minister could fall into for-eign hands when it comes up for sale. Collectors from

for sale. Collectors from around Europe have contacted Sotheby's which auction the Cambridge saloon on Monday at the Royal Air Force Museum, Hendon, northwest London. The price is hereas a \$4.000 and \$4.000 an is between £4,000 and £6,000. but this could be a conservative estimate because of the car's 12-year ownership by

Sotheby's said: "We would hope a British buyer will come forward for a car with such wonderful associations with a beroic figure in British history. Clearly, though, it has attracted interest from a lot of people around the world, particularly in

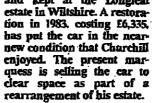
> Peace on earth

May we take this opportunity to thank all of you who have supported our Hospice during 1997. Your generous donations have enabled us to bring love, eace and comfort to over 900 terminally ill people this year alone.

ST. JOSEPH'S MAREST LONDON ES 45A

steel "easy clean" spoked wheels though it is hard to imagine the former Prime Minister going at them with bucket and sponge. Churchill used the car throughout the war years,

famously photographed by the bonnet of the Austin during one of his frequent outings. He sold the car in 1950 but it was bought at auction in 1967 by the sixth Marquess of Bath for £1,350 and kept at the Longleat estate in Wiltshire. A restoration in 1983, costing £6,335, has put the car in the nearnew condition that Churchill enjoyed. The present mar-





EWS IN BRIEF declines to ory donors

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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Hollywood ushers in its top 100

NEVER shy of self-aggrandisement, the American film industry is choosing 100 great feature films to mark the hundredth anniversary of the American cinema - all of them made or financed in the United States.

Citizen Kane, The Sound of Music and The Wizard of Oz all seem certain to make the list; Chariots of Fire stands an Olivier's Henry V has no chance at all.

"This is a landmark moment for American films, the great art form of the 20th century, said Jean Picker Firstenberg, the head of the American Film Institute (AFI), which is compiling the list, at a press conference on Wednes-day. "American film-makers set the standard for the

Critics of Hollywood's relentlessly commercial video fodder may beg to differ. Admirers of the work of Federico Fellini, Sergei Eisenstein, James Ivory and others will certainly howl in protest. Nonetheless, the long shortlist of 400 films being sent to 1,500 American film luminaries, as well as the Clinton and Gore families, does contain some

Casablanca, Chinatown, The Graduate and Alfred The US film industry is planning to

celebrate a century of movie-making

with an all-American cast. Giles

Whittell in Los Angeles reports on

an attempt to pick its 100 best works

these grounds. Steven Spiel-berg and George Lucas are likely to walk tall in the

centennial pantheon. With ten

films between them on the

shortist, their popularity and cultural impact cannot be

doubted, even if their artistic

genius can: Jaws, ET, Jurassic

Park and the Star Wars

trilogy have, if nothing else, trained millions of filmgoers

to expect an all-out sensory

assault for the price of their

ticket, as well as a good story.

British actors and directors are not excluded entirely,

thanks to their willingness to

work with US studios. Hitch-

er, has five films on the list.

David Lean has three -

included. So are Ben-Hur, cance and cultural impact. On Scarface, Pulp Fiction and 2001: A Space Odyssey.

Since it was largely financed in America, The English Patient is a contender. Last year's lamentable Jerry Maguire is also on the shortlist, presumably for touching the deeply sentimental chord that can make a film a hit in the Midwest even if it flops abroad. Forrest Gump, in the same category, is likewise in the top 400.

Flanked by the peerless
Dustin Hoffman and the boynext-door appeal of Chris
O'Donnell (known to millions of teenagers as Batman's latest Robin). Ms Firstenberg made it clear this week that critical acclaim was by no means her only criterion. Voters are also being asked to consider major award winners, popularity over time, historical signifiWilson's exclamation that the movies, at their best, are "like history writ in lightning".

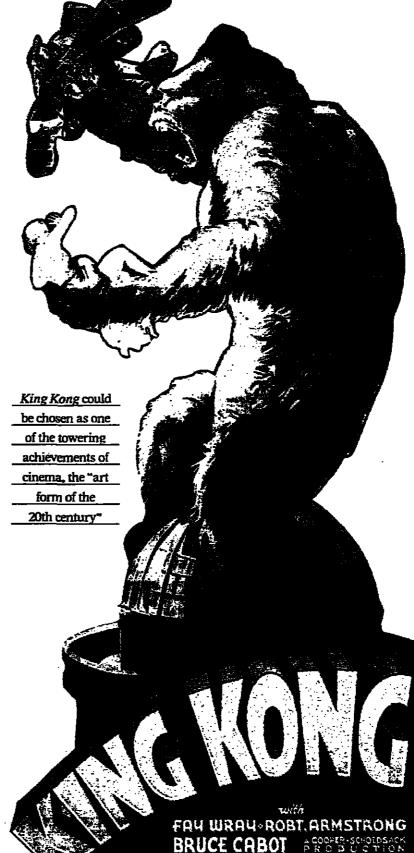
Peter Sellers and Sean Connery sneak into the overwhelmingly American line-up im Dr Strangelove, The Pink Panther and From Russia With Love), but Charlie Chaplin's The Great Dictator is conspicuously absent from a list clearly aimed at the hearts

— and wallets — of Middle

Though known mainly for film conservation, the AFI hopes to turn its top 100 into a cash bonanza: all 100 films will eventually go on sale in a special edition for video collectors. Buyers will find Henry Fonda and Jimmy Stewart in nine films each.

The sales pitch has begun already. "As we leave this century and reflect on its defining moments, among the most extraordinary and important would have to be the American movie," Ms Firstenberg said in a press release, betraying precisely the Hollywood-centred world view for which so many American films have been justly

cock, the inventor of the thrill-"Movies are truly the triumph of the 20th century," she concluded. So much for Lawrence of Arabia, The Bridge on the River Kwai and quantum theory, powered flight and global vaccination Dr Zhivago - each of which



EDGAR MALLAN

Reel art likely to draw in auction crowds

FROM TUNKU VARADARAJAN

A 1931 poster from the film Frankenstein, described by experts as the most sought-after film poster ever made", is expected to fetch more than \$600,000 (£375,000) at an auction of early cinema posters to be held at Christie's, New York. The present record is \$453,500 for a 1932 poster of

The Mummy.
The Frankenstein poster, in which Boris Karloff's face glows as if made of live coals, is one of a richly lurid selection from the horror genre, including a 1935 "jumbo window card" of The Bride of Frankenstein. a 1931 poster portraying Bela Lugosi in *Dracula*, and a splendidly outre 1941 poster of *The Wolf Man*.

Bruce Hershenson, the movie poster consultant for Christie's, said that horror posters were by far the most popular with buyers - and the most expensive. "There's the rarity factor. of course, because most of these films were made between 1927 and 1935, a period from which few posters survive. But I like to think the real reason is that these are the films that impressed buyers most when they were children. People remember being frightened out of their skin by

Richard Allen. co-author of Reel Art: Great Posters from the Golden Age of the Silver Screen, explained that the cachet that attaches to horror film posters could also be because they are "always visually stunning". He added: "Personally, they're not my favourites, but I'll concede that they're often the most imaginative

Mr Allen emphasised that the early Hollywood posters were "so good" because they "had to act as magnets. They had to draw crowds. So they were a compelling blend of commer-cial drive and art that was arresting." Other posters at the auction, expected to delight collectors, include the best range of Charlie Chaplin posters ever assembled, such as Those Love Pangs and The Gold Rush and Modern Times. Each could fetch up to \$75,000.

The 1936 poster of The Oregon Trail, an early John Wayne film, indisputably the finest poster ever made for a Western, will also be of particular interest.

☐ Hollywood and Early Cinema

Posters is at Christie's, New York. on December 1.

Film buffs' short list captures a century of cinema memories

1896-1610 Richard III. The Birth of a Nation. The Cheat. Intolerance. The Poor Little Rich Girl.

Withur Our Ganes. The Tour Horse men of the Apolcalypse. The Kid. Safety Last.

The Gold Rush. Greed, The Phantom of the Opera. Ben-Hur. The General. The Jazz Singer. Sunrise. Wings. The Crowd. The Wind. The Broadway Melody.

1982

All Quiet on the Western Front. Little Caesar. Morocco. Cimarron. City Lights. Frankenstein. The Public Enemy. Freaks. Grand Hotel. I am a Fugitive From a Chain Gang. Scarface: The Shame of a Nation. Trouble in Paradise. Cavalcade. Duck Soup. 42nd Street.

King Kong. She Done Him Wrong. Sons of the Desert. It Happened One Night The Scarlet Empress. The Thin Man. David Copperfield. The Little Colonel.

Mutiny on the Bounty. A Night at the Opera. Top Hat Dodsworth, Fury. The Great Ziegfeld. Mr Deeds Goes to Town. Modern Times. My Man Godfrey. Swingtime.

The Awful Truth. Camille. The Life of Emile Zola. Lost Horizon. Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs. A Star is Born.

The Adventures of Robin Hood, Boys Town, Bringing up Baby, You Can't Take it With You, Babes in Arms. Beau Geste. Destry Rides

Again. Gone with the Wind. Goodbye Mr Chips. Gunga

Smith goes to Washington. Ninotchka. Only
Angels Have Wings.
Stagecoach. The Wizard of Oz.
Wuthering Heights. Young Mr Lincoln.

The Bank Dick. Fantasia.

The Grapes of Wrath. His Girl Friday. The Mark of Zorro. Pinocchio. Rebecca. Citizen Kane. How Green Was My Valley.

The Lady Eve. The Little Foxes. The Maltese Falcon. Sergeant York. Sullivan's Travels.

Bambi. Casablanca. Cat People. The Magnificent Ambersons. Mrs Miniver. Now, Voyager. The Pride of the Yankees. Road to Morocco. To Be or Not to Be. Woman of the Year. Yankee Doodle Dandy.

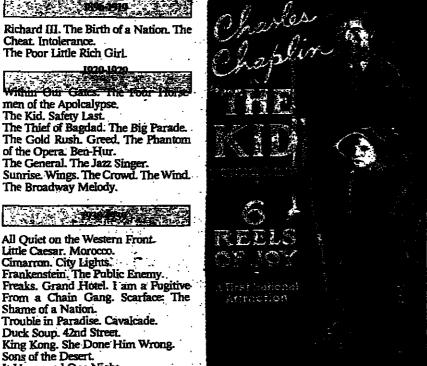
Cabin in the Sky. The Ox-Bow Incident. Shadow of a Doubt. Double Indemnity.

Going My Way. Hail the Conquering Hero. Laura. Meet Me in St Louis. The Miracle of Morgan's Creek. Thirty Seconds Over Tokyo. To Have and Have Not. The Lost Weekend. The Best Years of Our Lives. The Big Sleep. Gilda. It's a Wonderful Life. My Darling Clementine. Notorious. The Yearling. Gentleman's Agreement. Miracle on 34th Street. Out of

the Past. Force of Evil. Red

River. The Treasure of the

Sierra Madre, Adam's Rib. All



Intruder in the Dust. Sands of Iwo Jima. A Letter to Three Wives. The Third Man.

All About Eve. Cinderella. Gun Crazy. The Gunfighter. Sunset Boulevard.

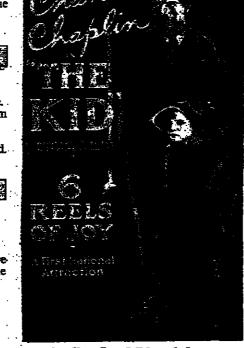
An American in Paris. The Day the Earth Stood Still. A Place in the Sun. Strangers on a Train:

Blondes. Shane. Stalag 17, The War of the Worlds. The Caine Mutiny. Carmen Jones. On the Waterfront, Rear Window. Salt of the Earth.

board Jungle. East of Eden. Lady and the

Bodysnatchers.

The Defiant Ones. Gigi. Run Silent, Run Deep. Touch of Evil. Vertigo. Anatomy of a



Twelve O'Clock High. White 1950-1959

Winchester 73. The African Queen.

A Streetcar Named Desire. The Greatest Show on Earth. High Noon. The Quiet Man. Singin' in the Rain. The Band Wagon. From Here to Eternity. Gentlemen Prefer

A Star is Born. 20,000 Leagues Under the Sea. The Black-

Tramp. Marty. Mister Roberts. The Night of the Hunter. Oklahoma! Rebel Without a Cause. The Seven Year Itch. Around the World in Eighty Days. Giant. Invasion of the

The Searchers. The Ten Commandments. An Affair to Remember. The Bridge on the River Kwai. Paths of Glory. Twelve Angry Men.



Chaplin's first full-length feature the King's Men. The Heiress. In Cold Blood. In the Hear of Allen. All that Jazz Apocathe Night. The Jungle Book.

The Producers. Two for the Road. Bullitt. Funny Girl. Night of the Living Dead. Oliver! Planet of the Apes. Rosemary's Baby. 2001: A Space Odyssey. Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid. Easy Rider. Medium Cool. Midnight Cowboy. The Wild

> 1970-1979 Five Easy Pieces. Little Big Man. Love Story. M*A*S*H.

Patton. A Clockwork Orange. Dirty Harry. Fiddler on the Roof. The French Connection. The Last Picture Show. McCabe and Mrs Miller. Cabaret. Deliverance. The Godfather. Sounder. American Grafitti.

The Exorcist Last Tango in Paris. Mean Streets. The Sting. The Way we Were. Blazing Saddles. Chinatown. The Conversation. The Godfather Part II

Dog Day Afternoon. Jaws. The Man Who Would be King. Nashville. One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest. The Rocky Horror Picture Show. All the President's Men. Carrie. Network. The Outlaw Josey Wales. Rocky. Taxi Annie Hall. Close Encounters of the Third Kind.

The Goodbye Girl. Saturday Night Fever. Star Wars. Coming Home. Days of Heaven. The Deer Hunter. National

Lampoon's Animal House.

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The Diary of Anne Frank. Imitation of Life.North by Northwest. On the Beach. Pillow Talk. Shadows. Some Like it Hot.

1966-1969

The Apartment. Elmer Gantry. Psycho.

Breakfast at Tiffany's. El Cid. The Hustler.

Judgement at Nuremberg. One Hundred and One Dalmations. A Raisin in the Sun. Splendour in the Grass. West Side Story.

Days of Wine and Roses. Lawrence of Arabia. The Longest Day. The Manchurian Candidate. To Kill a

Mockingbird. What Ever Happened to The Birds. Cleopatra. From Russia with Love. It's a Mad Mad Mad Mad World. The Pink Panther. Tom Jones.

The Americanisation of Emily. Poppins. My Fair Lady. Cat Ballou. Doctor Zhivago. The Sound of Music. The Fantastic Voyage. A Man for All Seasons. Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf? Barefoot in the Park. Bonnie and Clyde. Cool Hand Luke. The Graduate.

lypse Now. Breaking Away. Kramer Versus Kramer.

1980-1989

Atlantic City. The Empire Strikes Back. Melvin and Howard. Ordinary People. Raging Bull. Return of the Secaucus Seven. Chariots of Fire. On Golden Pond. Raiders of the Lost Ark. Reds. Blade Runner. ET The Extra Terrestrial. Fast Times at Ridgemont High. Gandhi.

Missing. Sophie's Choice. The Big Chill. Local Hero. El Norte. Return of the Jedi. The Right Stuff. Risky Business. Terms of Endearment. Amadeus. Beverly Hills Cop. Ghostbusters. The Killing Fields. Stranger

Than Paradise. Back to the Future. Brazil. The Color Purple. Out of Africa. Witness. Blue Velvet. Children of a Lesser God. Ferris Bueller's Day Off. Hannah and Her Sisters. Platoon. Broadcast News. The Last Emperor. Lethal Weapon. Moonstruck. The Untouchables, Big. Dangerous Liaisons. Die

The Last Tempation of Christ. Rain Man. Batman. Born on the Fourth of July. Dead Poets Society. Do the Right Thing. Driving Miss Daisy. Field of Dreams. Glory. Sex, Lies and

Hard.

Videotape.

1998-1996

Dances with Wolves. Goodfellas, Pretty Woman. Beauty and the Beast. Rambling Rose. The Silence of the Lambs. Terminator 2: Judgement Day. Thelma and Louise. The Player. Unforgivcn. The Fugitive. The Joy Luck Club.

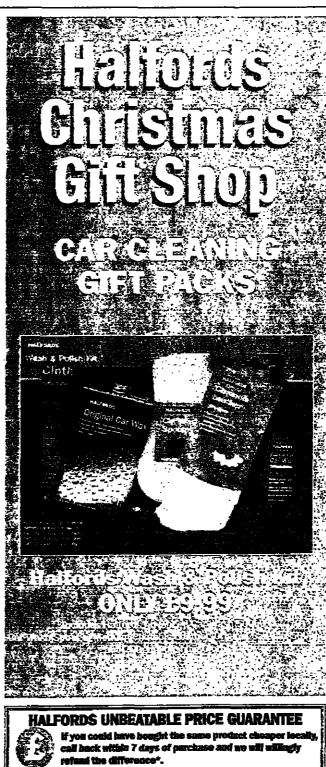
Forrest Gump. The Lion King.

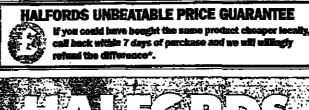
Pulp Fiction. The Shawshank Redemption. Apollo 13. Babe. Braveheart. Casino. Leaving Las Vegas. Sense and Sensibility. Toy Story. The English Patient. Fargo, Jerry Maquire.

Jurassic Park.

Schindler's List.

Sleepless in Scattle.





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Once a hacker, always a hacker

The boy who broke into Nasa files is unrepentant, says Stephen Farrell

PONY-TAILED Mathew Bevan, an X Files addict obsessed with UFOs, lived a twin existence and saw himself as the Nick Leeson of the

hacking world. An Admiral Insurance computer operator by day, at night he sat beneath posters of his fictional FBI heroes. Mulder and Scully, hacking around the world as real-life American investigators on his electronic trail suspected him of being one of the most sophisticated and dangerous hackers they had ever encountered.

In an interview with The Times Bevan admitted gaining access to computers belonging to the US Air Force, Nasa and the defence contractors Lockheed, but adamantly denied ever altering data.

He insists his motive was curiosity, not personal gain. I was after information about UFOs. I just wanted to find evidence of all the conspiracy theories - alien abductions, the 1950s Roswell landings and Nasa faking the moon landings - and where better to look than their computer files?" he said.

The US Air Force posts details of its personnel and



Aliens destroy the White House in Independence Day.

out what they could do with

Bevan was 12 when he got

his first computer, a Sinclair

ZX81, for Christmas from his

parents Elaine, a nurse, and

Thomas, a detective sergeant

with the South Wales Fraud

Squad who had no idea how

the gift would alter his son's

hours at a time on the

keyboard - to the irritation of

telephone bills never exceeded

£60 because he mastered the

technique of "blue-boxing",

gaining free calls by sending

Despite spending up to 36

parents — the family

Internet so anything you want could find and then working you can get if you know how.

It was a challenge."

Working under the nickname Kuji — the name of his cat and a martial arts death blow - he and the 16-year-old north London schoolboy Richard Pryce, who signed himself Datastream Cowboy, allegedly caused untold damage in March 1994.

Sources close to the American investigation, however, cast doubts on his claim to have been solely motivated by interest in aliens. "This was treated as serious incident. There might have been a matter of seeing what they

line to trick BT software into thinking a call was over. He had also installed a device to clear the line of tell-

tale static whenever his mother picked up the extension while he was at work on the £700 Omega 500 and 1200 models with which he did most of his damage.

His Holy Grail was to prove the conspiracy theory that alien spacecraft are stored in conditions of strict secrecy at Area 51 of Wright Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio — as suggested in the science fiction film Independence Day. Although he claims to have seen convincing evidence of their presence, no evidence is forthcoming.

He attacked military sites with "sniffer" and "password cracker" programs to gain entry to state-of-the-art computers. Once in they sought out the systems administrators' log-ons, copyied them and became invisible to others on the network.

Their traces were covered by hitting their targets from many different countries and through a false trail of up to half a dozen other computers. Bevan still believes investigators would never have caught



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Bevan: "It is all about control. I'm breaking into the biggest computers in the world from my little room"

him if Pryce had not revealed his own identity to an informant, and held Bevan's telephone number on one of his files seized by police. "I would never have been found. Their

security people had no idea." His immodest claims are partially supported by a detailed US Air Force Office of Special Investigations dossier presented by the OSI's former computer crime unit head, Jim Christy, to a Senate

He admitted that both had "penetrated and compromised" Rome Laboratories, the US Air Force's premier command and control research facility at Griffiss Air Force Base in New York.

Connecting to commercial Internet providers in Seattle and New York, they accessed other sensitive targets including Nasa's Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland, Wright Patterson and an attempt on Nato's Brussels headquarters. The OSI concluded: "From conduct observed through investigators' monitoring. Kuji was a far more sophisticated hacker than the 16-yearold Datastream. He would only stay on a telephone line a short time, not long enough to

be traced successfully." Pryce was arrested at his parents home in Colindale, north London in May 1994 and Bevan in June last year. All his equipment was seized,

leading, he admits, to with-drawal symptoms. It is all about control, really. I'm in my little room with my little computer breaking into the biggest computers in the world and suddenly I have more control over this machine than them. That is where the buzz comes from. Anyone who says they are a reformed hacker is talking rubbish. If you are a hacker, you are always a hacker. It's a state of

Colonel attacks Army over son's tank death

A SENIOR army officer whose son was killed in a military training accident had just weeks earlier because his unit had descended into a "leaderiess rabbie", an inquest was told yesterday.

Corporal Nicholas Guignard, 23, a technician with the Royal Electrical Mechanical Engineers (REME), was crushed to death as he repaired the main gun on a

exercise on Salishury Plain.
The soldier, working with the 1st Royal Tank Regiment, was crushed under the breech of the gun as he connected a faulty power supply unit to the mains while sitting inside the tank. Cross-wiring in the unit caused the barrel to flail up and down violently.

After the accident, the Army's Board of Enquiry made ten safety recommendations, including annual safety refresher courses and a new system of labelling parts as

they went for repair. Recording a verdict of mis-adventure, David Masters, the Wiltshire Coroner, recommended an overhaul of the system for repairing vehicles. "I want to put an emphasis on the urgency of implementing



Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard Guignard said the unit in which his son Nicholas served seemed a rabble

the recommendations of the tanks because his normal Board of Enquiry," he said. This enquiry has manifestly pointed up defects in the systems of repairing line replacement equipment." Lieutenant-Colonel Bernard

Guignard, who retired in October after 35 years' service with REME, told the inquest at Salisbury Guildhall: "Nicholas told me he wasn't using the proper manuals and was making do with précis, which was anathema to me as a professional engineer. When 1 asked what his supervisor said about this, he told me he was training his supervisor in

supervisor was elsewhere. The more questions I asked the more I became concerned that there was no level of effective management beyond his sergeant. I thought they had become a leaderless rabble."

Once his son had told him he had nearly died when a tank came dangerously close to tipping over and crushing him. Another time he had nearly been crushed by a tank

while in his sleeping-bag. The Ministry of Defence said that it would take full consideration of the coroner's recommendations.

Lack of student nurses 'poses threat to NHS'

By Ian Murray, medical correspondent

the fall in applications from young women to enter the pro-lession. There are now more training places on offer than students applying to fill them. and the dropout rate is grow-

ing, with one in four failing to finish the three-year course. Figures from the English National Board, which oversees the profession, show that there were 15,362 successful applications for the 16,126 training places last year. Pre-viously, the number eligible for training outweighed the number of student places.

Even numbers inquiring about the profession are falling fast. Two years ago, 33,000 application packs were sent to young people asking about a career in nursing. Last year, 25,000 requested information.

The low number of applicants and the high dropout rate mean that the number of nurses aged under 25 has fallen: there are now more nurses on the register over retirement age than there are nurses under-25. According to the Royal College of Nursing. some 9,000 nurses are expected to qualify next year, compared

with 37,000 15 years ago. Although the number of registered nurses has risen slightly in recent years this is

THE National Health Service because so many are being could be facing a serious employed who are trained shortage of nurses because of elsewhere. The number of elsewhere. The number of British trained nurses continues to fall. There are 600,000 nurses on the register, but of these up to \$5,000 are not

working in nursing.
As the number of female nurses falls, the proportion of male nurses is rising. They now represent almost 10 per cent of those on the register, and are no longer predomin-antly working in mental health; a growing proportion are in children's wards.

"Everyone should be worried by the fall in the numbers training," a spokesman for the UK.Central Council for Nursing, Midwifery and Health Visiting said. There has never been a period when there were so many competing jobs available for the sort of person who

would make a good nurse."
Older, qualified people were increasingly returning to work after having a child, she said, but there are not enough young people being trained now to ensure we have an adequate number of nurses in the future".

Pippa Gough, assistant di-rector of nursing policy at the RCN, said: This is a grave situation and it is getting worse. We're heading for the worst shortages since the start

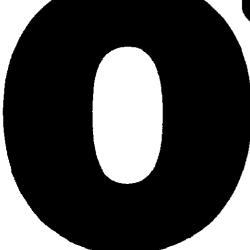


When Seymour Hersh began investigating President John Kennedy's notorious sex life, he found a level of debanchery that far exceeded expectations. The Witnesses, however, were unassailable: a former mistress and his Secret -Service bodyguards

News Review







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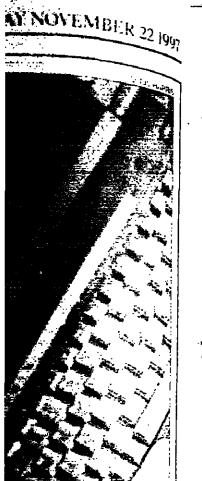
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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Passengers are reminded that smoking is obligatory

Non-smoker Damian Whitworth found his head in the clouds when he joined tobacco enthusiasts on a

special flight to Amsterdam

THE problem: the European they were relieved they were pro-smoking lobby is holding its biannual conference in Amsterdam this weekend, but there are no flights from London to The Netherlands on which delegates can smoke. The solution: they hired their own plane and smoked for Britain.

bizarrely, was the press officer for Freedom Organisation for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (Forest) who had chartered the plane. The sec-

not going on this trip. Then, as we gathered in London yesterday, the director of Forest. Marjorie Nicholson, said cheerfully that I was "very brave" and presented me with a face mask before we set off. Just how much smoke could

There were two non-smokers on the flight. The first, to Biggin Hill from where our flight departed I entered a fug immediately reminiscent of the short time I once spent in a small room with Lord Harris of High Cross and his pipe. As ond was me.

Even the most furious smokers at The Times said

I waded through to a seat, the smoke cleared briefly and there was Lord Harris, in



In drag: members of Forest donned 1930s gear

trademark deerstalker, chugging on his pipe.
At Biggin Hill it was notice-

able that most of the women had fox furs draped around their shoulders and the men were wearing 1930s suits and trilbies. The idea was to hark back to a time of greater freedom. The 1930s was a

wrapped up in using the organs of the state to dictate to people how they should live their lives," explained Martin Ball, the non-smoking press

In keeping with this theme the aircraft was also from that age. A 1940s DC-3 was waiting on the runway. A fire engine was parked alongside.

On board fingers tapped nervously and ears strained for the magic words "you are now free to smoke". We took off noisily, the announcement was made and two dozen

lighters clicked on as one. At 10,000 feet it was freezing and we entered the clouds, both outside and inside the

Large drinks were poured and the delegates luxuriated in their plumes of smoke. The flight was an hour and 40 minutes. The journey takes about an hour on a modern plane. It seems hard to believe that it is not possible to last that long without a cigarene. Some people can "." said Ms Nicholson.

"I'm a fugitive from persecution," declared Lord Harris. who is chairman of Forest. Tolerance on both sides is what is wanted. There is no need for there to be a war." The conference, which is **DOCTORS CALL FOR BAN**

The credibility of the Goverament's commitment to tackle the health menace of tobacco has been undermined by the debate over sport sponsorship, doc-tors' leaders said yesterday (Ian Murray writes). Launching an alliance of 80 national organisations that want a comprehensive

Europe-wide ban on all forms of tobacco advertising, Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said the de-

organised by the umbrella organisation Smokepeace, will discuss the problems experienced by smokers throughout Europe and as far afield as Asia and the United States. Groups will plot tactics for recruiting sympathisers and handling the media and

onslaughts from the many

weeks on the tobacco sponsorship of sport "has undermined the credibility of the Government's commitment to tackling the tobacco menace and improving public health". A

European Directive bauning tobacco advertising in sport is to be discussed at the Health Council in Brussels on December 4. Leaders of the alliance are to meet Mr Blair next

bate over the past few

anti-smoking groups. there will be time off for plenty of serious puffing.

Quite how seriously some people take the issue was brought into focus by George Oliver, 69, and his wife Maisie, 68. They had never been abroad before this trip,

or in a plane. But when their

to a foreign holiday to celebrate their golden wedding, they chose to join the Forest

expedition.
We went to look at holidays but the travel agent said there was no smoking on the flights. Then my daughter heard about this," Maisie said. "So we joined Forest and we

came." George, a former tree surgeon from Hertford, smokes between 40 and 50 eigarettes a day, while Maisie has ten to

when they were 14. I was gasping when we touched down, but for clean air not a cigarette. Forest kindly invited me to stay and fly back with them on Monday but I explained that I had to return earlier and would have to forgo the cosy chimneyinterior atmosphere of their

> Bernard Levin Weekend, page 7

Lawyer's career in ruins after lie to save lover

THE career of a Crown Prosecution Service solicitor is in ruins after an Old Bailey jury yesterday found her guilty of perverting the course of

Penelope Schofield, 35, wept as the jury decided she had piled lie upon upon lie to protect her policeman lover from a drink-driving charge. Her own defence council said her behaviour had been "despicable and indefensible".

Schofield, of Hambledon, Hampshire, now faces being struck off after a disciplinary hearing of the Law Society. She also faces a CPS hearing.

She will be sentenced next month after social inquiry reports when she will again stand in the dock with her onetime boyfriend, Nigel Phillips, a former detective constable, who had pleaded guilty to hearing. The judge, Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, asked for the reports to cover the possibility of community service "without in any way suggesting that

will be the outcome". The woman who helped put Schofield in the Old Bailey dock is Detective Constable Annie Hutchinson. She was dating Mr Phillips, 31, before he set up home with the lawyer. She came forward with new evidence to prove



Schofield: told court she had lost everything

police a vital lead in their vestigation.

Nicholas Campbell, for the prosecution, told the court: "It may be implied that in some way she was acting out a She had lost her man and she was going to take her revenge by making her suffer."

She had come forward to

say that Schofield had taken the taxi alone that night. "She came forward with evidence to assist the police that the couple had lied." But, Mr Campbell said, the woman police detective had been acting pro-Schoffeld said in a state-

ment read out to the court: "Now I have lost everything my career, my job with the Crown Prosecution Service and it is likely that I will be struck off by the Law Society. I have worked extremely hard to get those qualifications and my whole life has revolved

around the legal profession.
"I am ashamed of what I have done and of the shame it has brought on my family. I did it for Nigel out of stupidity. without thinking of the consequences."

The court was told that Schofield began her deceit after she had accompanied Phillips to a CID dinner dance at the De Vere Harbour Hotel in Southampton last December. As the band played, she thought Phillips was becom-ing over-familiar with a po-licewoman; they quarrelled and she left.

Phillips carried on drinking before deciding to drive the 13 miles to the home they shared together. But after four miles Bitterne Police Station where he was based - he hit a kerb and punctured one of his

He drove the car into the station car park and entered the building where colleagues saw he was drunk and he was arrested, breathalysed and found to be three times over the drink-drive limit. In the station, he made several calls to Schofield and persuaded her to agree she had been driving up to the time of the "accident".



Burglary victims' £5m flutter pays off

By Paul Whittaker

IT MAY have seemed liked an oddson loser to most, but a small number of burglary victims who attended yesterday's 20th police stolen property roadshow at Epsom Racecourse came away winners. However, the 37 lucky punters who had identified

their stolen valuables by the afternoon may have to wait months to need to be used as evidence in court.

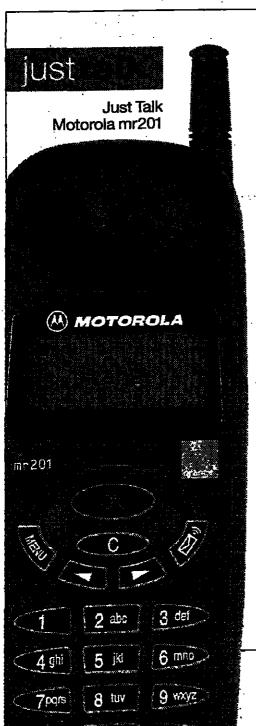
collect, depending on whether they With statistics showing a home in Britain is buregled every two minutes, it was little surprise that record crowds gathered for the biggest yet Operation Bumblebee roadshow.

More than 600 people poured into the Queen's Stand in the first two hours to view the collection, worth

more than £5 million. Stolen goods included a £10,000 horse-drawn carriage, a £25,000 17thcentury painting, a jet ski and a 1987 Zeebrugge ferry disaster commemorative medal. One of the day's winners, May Clark, a district nurse from Southend, Essex, found two heirlooms left to her by her mother

which were stolen in 1993. Mrs Clark, 50, who identified a gold brooch and a beart-shaped locket, said: "It was a real gamble coming here. I was not very hopeful I

would ever see these items again."



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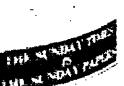
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Prisoners in a 'human zoo'

Tourists are contributing to Thai slavery. writes Andrew Drummond





Abducted Paduang, left, are held captive as others in a refugee camp, right, await news of them

WOMEN from a remote Burmese hill tribe who are renowned for their long necks are being used as exhibits in a human 200 in Thailand, where they sought refuge after fleeing from Burma's military junta. Three of the villagers, who have been found by The Times, are alleged to have died after being deprived of medical attention.

The women, from Kayah state in Burma, went missing a year ago. having been kidnapped by Thai businessmen and placed under armed guard on land controlled by the Thai Army just over the border from Burma near the village of Thaton, on the River Kok.

Tourists, who have been paying E4 a head to view the women, are told by guides that the families are living free under the care of the Thai military, which has given them the land to live on.

But their families say that they have been sold into slavery. They are paid £3 a month per family by a That businessman to look their best for tourists. Their captors sell them make-up, which they insist the women wear, and aspirin derivatives if they fall ill.

The discovery of the camp comes as Thailand is promoting longnecked women as a tourist attraction for "Amazing Thailand Year". an international publicity campaign. The women told The Times they had been beaten regularly and their husbands had been forced to work for the Thai Army, digging after by the Karen Refugee Com-



trenches on the Burma border. Civilian guards near the camp had immediate access to MI6 weapons and hand-held mortars.

The captives are members of the Padaung hill tribe, an offshoot of the Karen, an ethnic minority who lought with the British Chindits against the Japanese in the Second World War. Since then, they have been fighting the Burmese military dictatorship for their own state.

The group of Padaung, originally 34 in strength, fled Burma in August last year, leaving their Kayah state village of Panpet in Deemawso township. For ten days, friendly units of the rebel Karen army monitored the group as it followed a well-worn route to the Karen refugee camp of Baan Na Soi. There, other long-necked hill-tribe relatives are being looked

mittee in the relative safety of another tourist village that they help to administer themselves. It has since been learnt, however, that, only a few miles short of their destination, the fleeing group was put into minibuses with tinted windows and driven out of the area. Karen intelligence sources discovered that the guide - once a Mae Hong Song tourist guide had sold them, and absconded with the proceeds.

"We sent our troops after him but they got the news six hours too late," said Aung Myat, the deputy chairman of the Karen Refugee Committee in Mae Hong Son.

Three months ago, Karen refugee officials were given the first evidence of the plight of their missing people. They received a rape from a tourist who had visited Pakphongchai and been asked to deliver it to the refugee centre.

The tape began with the sound of Padaung women singing a dirge, but then cut to the voice of a woman pleading for help. "Please come now. Things cannot be any worse," she said. "We would rather die than live here." For 30 minutes a succession of men and women poured out their complaints. "We are beaten when they see us writing or trying to talk to tourists secret-



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ly," a voice said. Another complained: "They won't let us leave. They guard us with guns." One said: "We don't want to see these people visiting and smiling and laughing at us. We want to be with

our own people." Yet another said: "I feel so sorry when foreigners come and ask about our children's schooling. They won't let us take our children to school. We cannot eat the food they give us. They shout and scream if we do not make the foreigners happy."

Families in the Baan Na Soi camp recognised the voices of their relatives. Zaw Thet, the only Padaung member on the refugee committee and a former rebel officer, travelled north to investigate. When I got there, there were 40 armed men at the gates. They and an official appointed to had MIos and machineguns. They investigate child exploitation. pointed their guns at me and

refused me entrance," he said. Despite several attempts by the Karen Refugee Committee to have the families released, the only action taken by the authorities in Chiang Mai province was to arrest the Padaung women and charge them with working illegally. They were then immediately sent back to work in the camp after the businessman, Thana Nakluang, paid their bail. He was also charged with using illegal labour, but the

into the huts, bemused to find them empty. At the gates the Padaung rushed to touch Zaw Thet. The maximum fine he faces is less than guards were compelled to let him in the takings from a bus of tourists. so the Padaung would at least After an appeal from within Kayah state, I visited the camp as a

return to the tourist viewing area. The Padaung confirmed the allegations they had made on the tape. A camp manager in dark glasses nicknamed Muu — Thai for pig denied the brutality. "Don't believe they are not happy here and that

After paying the entrance fee, I

entered the camp with the Thai

official and was able discreetly to

deliver a message in Burmese and play a tape of Zaw Thet talking to

his people in Padaung. The camp village emptied as the Padaung families, at first incredulous, rushed to the gates apparently

believing they were to be freed. Newly arrived tourists looked

tourist, accompanied by Zaw Thet we do not pay them. They make lots of money. Look in their huts. We treat them very well," he shouted. "Just ask them." We did. All said

they wanted to leave immediately. The Karen committee and Thai officials had to leave the camp with the arrival of Tourist Police friendly to the owner, and after the scarcely veiled threat of having their pictures taken by Nakluang's camp guards.

Zaw Thet said: "Only public opinion and good Thai citizens can help our people now. The Padaung are not animals, but proud people with fierce traditions. This is a mockery of them."

☐ Andrew Drummond has spent a considerable time on the Thai-Burma border reporting on the ethnic rebels' fight for survival. He has reported on the Karens' 50-year war for BBC2's Everyman, and on Khun Sa, the opium warlord, for the ITV network.

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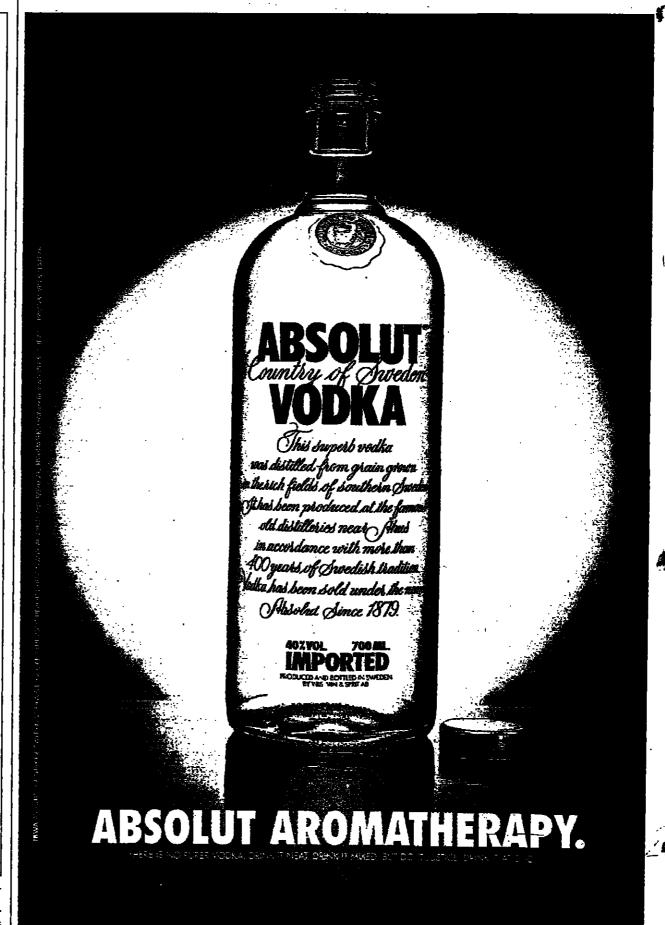


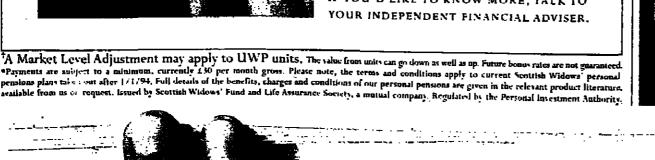
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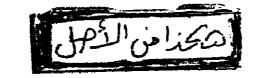
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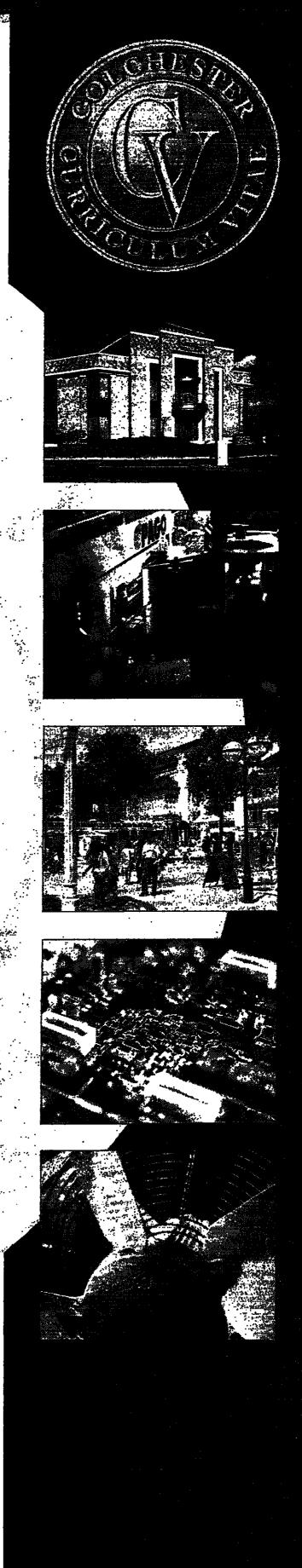
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Bouquets and smiles: at ease among her people



at the Royal Gala at the Festival Hall on Wednesday, left, and meeting Chelsea Pensioners on her relaxed and informal walkabout with the Prime Minister on the way to the Banqueting House luncheon on Thursday



The royal walkabout on Thursday dispensed with the usual stock banalities

TIME FOR BED

VERY, VERY FUNNY.

DAVID BADDIEL

IF THERE was a defining moment of the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh's golden wedding anniversary celebra-tions on Thursday, it came shortly before noon.

Fresh from the solemnities of thanksgiving in Westmin-ster Abbey, the royal couple emerged from the Great West Door under a leaden November sky and, as planned, headed for the crowd corralled behind crush barriers across the street. It held every promise of a stock royal walkabout. with its standard banalities of "Have you come far?" and

crowd handed the Oueen a balloon. It was one of those helium-filled novelties that stays aloft at the end of its

'A very funny novel, with brilliant gags and situations, digested expertly

into a well-rounded plot, spring-loaded with unexpected reversals

and surprises' - Peter Bradshaw, Independent on Sunday

'Funny, well-placed and with a sharp eye for the truth about lust'

- Sunday Mirror

'A seriously funny, laugh-out-loud novel' - Tatler

OUT NOW IN PAPERBACK.

The Hanoverian scowl has disappeared in what appears to be an overnight change of royal style. Alan Hamilton reports on a rejuvenated monarch

string. The Queen is well used to accepting posies and bou-quets from the multitude, which she accepts graciously and immediately passes to the nearest courtier or policewornan, with a polite smile to the donor. But the balloon was different: the Queen hung on to it for the best part of a minute, and for that brief moment she looked more relaxed, more at ease with herself and her world, than

Was this the same scowly. jowly Hanoverian we used to know, the distant lady with the strangulated vowels - which she would have called "viles" that was our hereditary head of state? Was this the same Head of the Commonwealth who used to read duty speeches with head fixed downwards on text, who at the Banqueting House on Thursday looked us - or at the least television camera — square in the eye and told us that she was open to change?

she has done for years.

It is indeed the same head of state whose job has been to symbolise the United Kingdom for 45 years, whose first Prime Minister was Winston Churchill and who is now on her tenth. But whatever has happened to the royal body language? Suddenly it speaks to us. Has there been an overnight change of royal style, or are we all so captivat-ed by the new Labour notion

of People's Britain that we see what we want to see? Or has the monarch been got at by the

Probably none of those. A is a cause of celebration for anyone who has endured the same partner for half a century, and who still draws

6 She remains the best figurehead we have got, or are likely to have in her lifetime 9

sure from the union, as the Queen and Prince Philip patently do. In their respective speeches, he spoke of her tolerance, she of his strength. Public though it may have been, the golden wedding was,

an uncontroversial one; few, whatever their views on the future of hereditary monarchy, were likely to make adverse capital out of half a century of successful marriage. She was on safe ground. She looked a little severe at broadcast from Cape Town on her 21st birthday pledging herself to a life of service.

when her husband paid an

elegant tribute to her toler-

ance. (He, on the other hand,

clearly enjoyed her return

compliment to him the follow-

ing day, alluding to the fact

that he was a crusty old stick,

but no less a rock for that). But

at all other times during the

week's festivities, we have

watched a happy monarch.
This is not entirely new; it is

simply that we do not always

notice it. What we do vaguely

Being head of state and

That she has not smiled so much recently is hardly surprising, for serpents and brimstone have rained upon her land in abundance. The divorces of three of her children, the burning of her favourite unwillingness to foot the bill, would have been enough by themselves. But then, at the time of the tragic death of Diana, Princess of Wales, she was criticised for staying at Balmoral, where she was doing her best to comfort her bereaved grandsons.

When she did come back to London, she looked us in the eye in a live broadcast that was, in the circumstances. something of a tour de force.

The woodenness of her Christmas broadcasts had gone. She gazed straight at the camera (autocues are a wonderful invention, but they do need a little practice) and told us Continued on page 9



appreciate, however, is that Elizabeth II improves with age. The improvement began when she stopped colouring her hair and bowed to the inevitable of distinguished silver-grey. The improvement was instant, and dramatic. Head of the Commonwealth

requires, when abroad, a certain dignified bearing. But the Queen had never looked so

spontaneously happy on any overseas tour within living memory as when she was welcomed by Nelson Mandela to the new post-apartheid South Africa in 1994. for the Queen, essentially a The reasons were threefold. She had a huge personal admiration for Mandela; she personal occasion. And it was is delighted for any country to be readmitted to her beloved Commonwealth; and she recalled her last visit to South Africa with her father in 1947, shortly before her wedding, when she made a memorable



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DAY NOVEMBER 22 19



with and in the order of thursday

A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE QUEEN



The Duke of Edinburgh showing no signs of crustiness as he meets the people on Thursday's walkabout from Downing Street to the Banqueting House luncheon

Continued from page 8 directly, without any apparent

benefit of spin-doctors, that she grieved for Diana, but that she was a grandmother whose first duty was to her family.

The death of the Princess unleashed a weird and frightening tide of emotion in the

country. What it did not unleash was a wave of republicanism; the country, it its moment of loss, wanted its mother. It wanted its Queen. the nation's atavistic soul, the tion of being set in aspic. She

monarchy can still satisfy a need. We perceived a new, rejuvenated Queen, 71 years old and blooming, at her golden wedding.

We have heard tabloid

hyperbole about charm offensives, new brooms, need to change to survive, and other doubtful invention. The Queen has been fine-tuning the monarchy for years, and although the pace of change may be too slow for some, no one could accuse the institu-

pays income tax now. All her relatives are off the Civil List, and the taxpayer now funds only herself, her husband and her mother (to whom we would surely not begrudge a decent pension).

She funded three quarters of the Windsor fire restoration by charging hoi-polloi to tramp round her homes. And her household is now run, not by titled courtiers, but by as hard-headed a bunch of City money men as you will find anywhere. She has reluctantly

soon lose her train. She is becoming a slimmed-down monarch, prey to the modern climate of ruthless business efficiency. Anyone who says the Royal Family is a profligate waste of money has not read the balance sheet lately.

But the point about the Queen is that there might be minor changes of style, but her core values do not change. She is under siege from Brussels. which wishes to dilute British sovereignty, and from the

Dover - Calais

parted with her boat, and may northern half of her kingdom, which if it ever moved to full independence would not automatically choose her or her

successor as Heid O'State.
For the nation state of the United Kingdom as at present constituted, however, she remains the best figurehead we have got, or are likely to have in her lifetime. Her 10th Prime Minister, in his speech at the Banqueting House on Thursday, acknowledged that there were few shrewder cookies about, and that her advice

Newhaven - Dieppe

Minister who is an out-and-out monarchist (although she should be careful that he does not use her for his own political ends), and a public who, now that the fog of recent mass emotion is clearing, still value their monarch. That seems more than enough to

was always worth listening to.

Queen Elizabeth has a hus-

band who adores her, a Prime

Leading article and Letters, page 23



The Queen, radiant in red, at the Guildhall lunch



All smiles with her "Happy Anniversary" balloon



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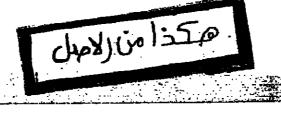
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Chris Hession with a sample of Irish seaweed: "This has got everything that people want — it is organic, low in fat, high in vitamins and studies show that it helps longevity"

Seaweed farm caters for rising tide of sushi

FARMERS in the West of Ireland may shortly abandon traditional sheep and cattle husbandry to grow seaweed for sushi bars in Tokyo and London. The first commercial seaweed farm in the British Isles will be set up next month off the Galway coast by farmers and scientists keen to capitalise on the surge in international demand for the slithery weed called "sea vegetables".

Ireland has 560 types of seaweed, of which only dulse has traditionally been eaten. The rest is left to rot or harvested for manure, food additives or soothing hot baths in Kerry and Donegal. Now scientists at the University of Galway, have found among the Irish weeds Porphyra linearis and Alaria esculenta, otherwise known as nori and wakame, the most popular seaweeds in sushi bars.

Irish Seaweed Industry Organisation, said that the potential for success in the \$4 billion (£2.38 billion) seaweed market was enormods. In 1994, Japan imported almost half the 223,000 tonnes of

the United States. This has got everything that people want: it is not an animal fat, it is organic, it is low in fat, high in vitamins and studies show that it

seaweed consumed and it is in-

creasingly popular in Europe and

For centuries it has been the poor man's food and fertiliser in Ireland, but now it is being grown for an international market worth £2.3 billion, reports Audrey Magee

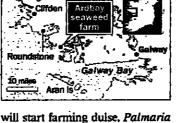
who is based at the university. "All we have to do now is get it right and produce a tasty Irish

Production of wakame, used in a wide range of Japanese foods, including miso soup, starts in Galway next month. For the past three years, the UCG team, funded by the Irish Government and the European Union, have been perfecting the genetic make-up of wakame, nori and dulse. They are already producing Asparagopsis

armata, a seaweed used in cosmetics.

The seeds are planted in a bath of seawater, where they wrap around string as they grow. The young plants are transferred to the sea at Ardbay, Connemara, and attached to ropes suspended near the surface of the sea, allowing maximum light without desiccation.

The Galway team hopes to produce two crops of wakame a year, eventually selling 50g of seaweed at £4 to £20. Next year it



will start farming dulse, Palmaria palmata, and nori, which is used to wrap the rolls of sushi. Most of the seaweed consumed in the world is farmed in China, Japan and other Asian countries. A company in Brittany grows the plant for cos-

Michael Ward will be the first farmer in Ireland to try growing wakame. He is already producing Asparagopsis armata for a French company making anti-burn cream. computer programmer and part-

time farmer originally from Glasgow, he will shortly get young wakame plants from the university

to plant in his lot in Ardbay. The Japanese have 5,000 years experience growing this, so that puts them slightly ahead of us, but we are convinced that we can quickly learn and catch up," he

However, Hiromitsu Mochizuki, owner of the sushi bar in Harrods, who imports his wakame and nori from Japan, doubts that the Irish can match the Japanese standards. Ten years ago I tasted seaweed from Scotland, but it was hard and chewy," he said. "The different seawater and plankton around Scotland and Ireland make the texture much harder. The flavour is

more bitter. "But I am very happy to try it when it is ready. Then we shall

NEWS IN BRIEF

New DNA tests in **Brittany** killer hunt

Gene samples from men aged 35 to 60 are being taken from men in the Brittany village of Pleine Fougeres by French police investigating the killing of Caroline Dickinson in July last year.

Caroline, 13, was raped and murdered in a hostel dormitory while on a school trip from Launceston Com-munity College, Coruwall. Last month 169 male villagers aged 15 to 35 gave DNA samples, but all proved nega tive when compared with the killer's genetic fingerprint.

Boys in court

Three boys of 10 and 11 appeared in court accused of the manslaughter of a woman when fire swept through bedsits above an offlicence. They were remanded on bail by Brent Youth Court. North London

£20,000 award

Lisa De Smet, 28, was awarded £19,800 by Hove County Court after her scalp was chemically burnt while she was having her hair bleached by a hairdresser in Brighton. She had to have five skin-grafts and is still scarred.

Tory couple split

The Conservative MP Ste phen Day and his wife, Frances, have separated after 15 years. Mr Day, MP for Cheadle, blamed the pressure of parliamentary work and both said that nobody else was involved.

Smoker's suicide

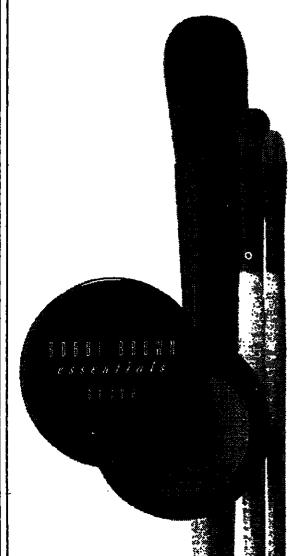
Raymond Bateman, 53, a heavy smoker, hanged himself because he thought he had lung cancer, but an inquest in Bristol was told that a post-mortem examina-tion had found no trace of cancer in his body.

Diana inquiry

The BBC has begun an inquiry into how a film about Diana, Princess of Wales was sold as a video of the Teletubbies. A shopper in Glasgow was twice sold the film inside a Here Come The



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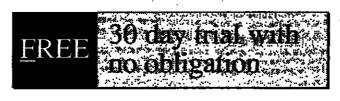
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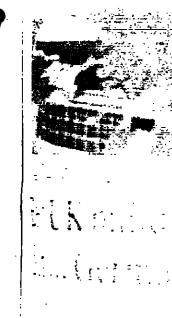
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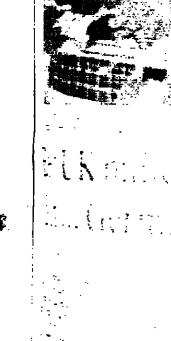
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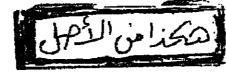












NEWS IN BRIEF New DNA tests in Brittany killer hunt

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Mich? Online.

Mandelson spins a tale of the century A glossy brochure contains Labour's hard-sell on the £750m Millennium Dome, writes Nicholas Wood

IT PROMISES to be the most speciacular event anywhere in the world. You will travel on a theatrical journey, taking you from the past far into the future. Breathtaking soundand-light effects will combine with the excitement of live performance for a spectacular and inspirational experience.

And if you think that sounds like the patter from a sales brochure, you are right. Amid mounting criticism of the informational black hole at the centre of the £750 million Millennium Dome, Peter Mandelson, the minister in charge, has approved publication of the first official description of the "fun and fascination" awaiting the nation when the dome opens on New Year's Eve 1999. At a cost of £40,000 for an

initial print run of 50,000 copies, the brochure will be made available to the public on Thursday with the opening of the Dome visitor centre at the Royal Naval College in Greenwich. It will be regularly updated as the project unfolds and the 12 designers and their business sponsors get down to detailed work on the nine "exhibition zones" inside the outer rim of the

The eight-page brochure, masterminded by the Saatchi brothers, is strong on slick, futuristic images of Britain, but light on detail about the contents of the dome. In addition to the time-travel show in the 10,000-seater central arena to be produced by Sir Cameron Mackintosh, the



The cover of the new eight-page brochure

impresario who produced Cats and Miss Saigon, it promises the latest interactive technology to help visitors to the exhibition zones explore the world of 2000 and beyond. "Discover who we are, what we are and where we will be

brochure says. It also reinforces Tony Blair's vision of Britain as a young country, with pictures of children, dancers, video screens and trendy young

people dominating the text.
In an interview with The Times, Mr Mandelson made no apology for his grandiose ambitions for the dome, twice the size of Wembley Stadium, which the brochure suggests should be fit to stand comparison with such architectural wonders as the Pantheon and St Peter's Basilica in Rome and St Paul's Cathedral."It



An earlier dome at the 1951 Festival of Britain, a

Best UK building is in ... Germany

By Marcus Binney, architecture correspondent

BRITAIN'S building of the year is in Germany. Faced with the fact that many of the most exciting buildings by British architects are now £20,000 Stirling Prize has been awarded to the new Music School in Stuttgart by

Michael Wilford & partners. The judges from the Royal Institute of British Architects acclaimed the design as an ed British monumental tradi-

example of the now "neglecttion, from Sir Edwin Lutyens through Six Basil Spence and Sir Denys Lasdun to Sir lames Stirling". The £40 million school was

the last building on which Sir James was working before his death, with his partner and successor Michael Wilford. The school is part of

Many had expected the British architecture, or to the

named after.

The Music School has nine floors of teaching and practice rooms with a concert ball in the rotunda - a dear homage to the great Swedish architect Gunnar

Stuttgart's Cultural Mile and Wilford's Staatsgalerie, one of the most acclaimed buildings of the 1980s.

award to go to Chris Wilkinson, the fastest rising star in current enfant terrible, Will

But there is an added frisson in the fact that the Stirling prize goes to a buildthe architect it was

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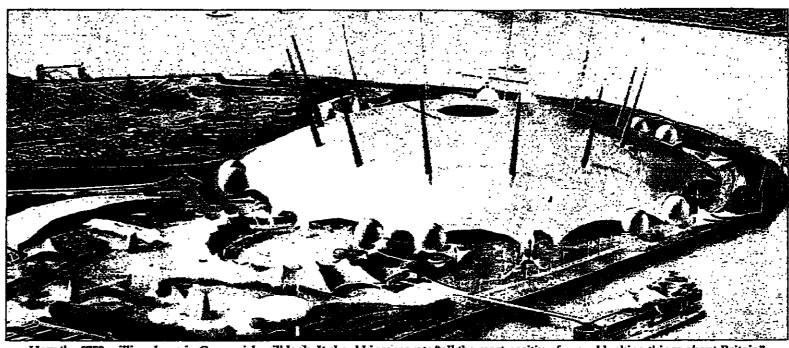


has to be a big statement. It has to take people's breath away. Otherwise, nobody would notice it. We want to be noticed. That's the whole

He also confirmed that the dome was a key part of the Prime Minister's big idea to rebrand Britain as the most dynamic, entrepreneurial and forward-looking place on Earth.

"The vision we have for Britain we want to be captured in the dome is of an ambitious, can-do, optimistic and meritocratic society. It is a Britain that is admired because we make the most innovative products, because we are at the cutting edge of architec-ture, of design, or marketing. "All the most positive, forward-looking things about

Britain we want to be highlighted. The eyes of the world will be on Britain because we are the home of time, because we are blazing a trail into the going in the future," the new millennium through this experience and this tremendous construction and engineering achievement, which will be the most famous build-



How the £750 million dome in Greenwich will look. It should incorporate "all the most positive, forward-looking things about Britain"

"We are taking a great event the Millennium - and using that opportunity to redefine ourselves as a forwardlooking, confident country that is leading the way." Like the Festival of Britain

ing offered to the world in the in 1951 and the Great Exhibition of 1851, the dome will be an "expression of national

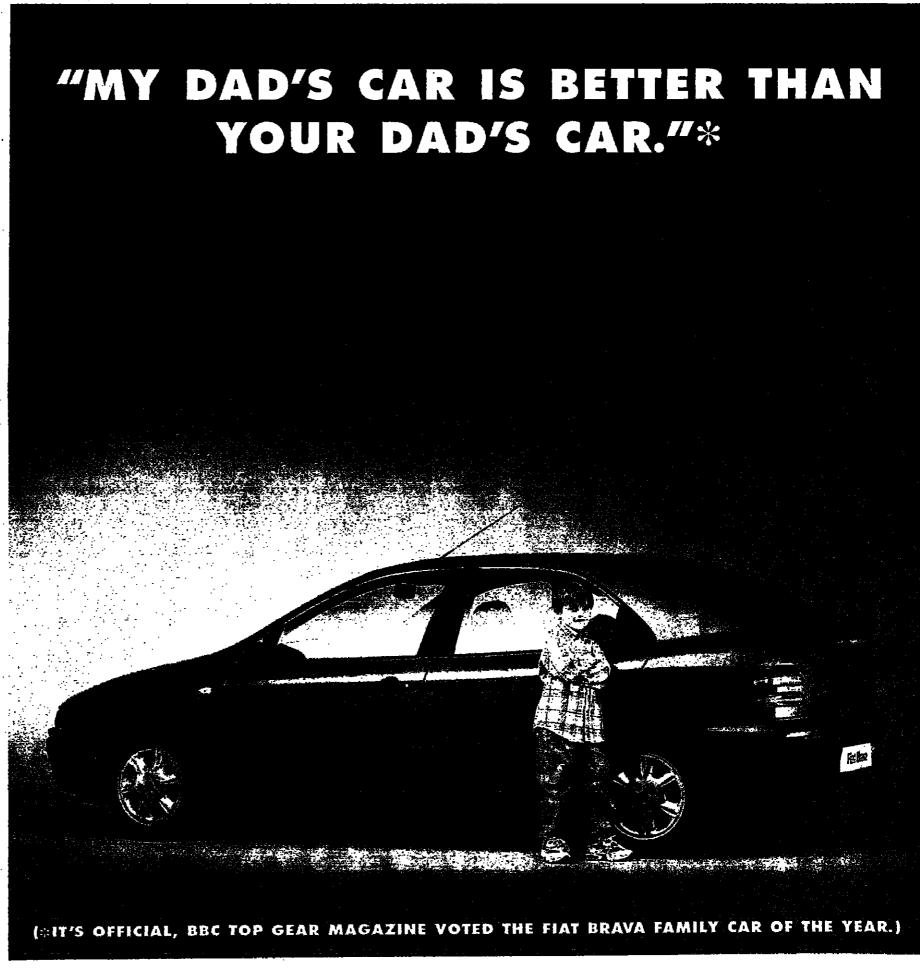
renewal and pride". In keeping with Mr Mandelson's vision, the brochure is thin on British histary, with only Greenwich's place as the home of the prime meridian being highlighted. But Mr Mandelson denied that he was abandoning the nation's roots. "It doesn't shun the past. It tells a story about time, about how we arrived at

where we are. "Passing into a new millennium is an occasion for people

to think about the future. Rather than defining ourselves by our past, as Britain has tended to do, when it has spoken of warm beer, village greens, country cricket, we are fining ourselves by the

"We have got to persuade

or adopting a new image, but by being a society that has genuinely revitalised itself." That way will come new investment, new jobs, new



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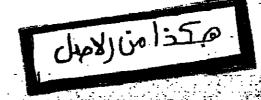
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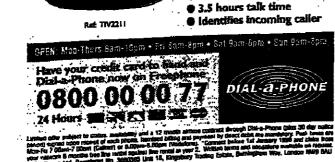


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Heroine of a rape saga

HER demeanour is gentle, her features soft, her voice like the sound of a brittle flute. Adrienne Bak Ortolano is New York's latest, and quietest, heroine.

Eleven years ago, aged 16, she was raped in the front seat of a car by someone from her school who had offered to drive her home from a party. His name was Alex Kelly. He was then 19, the most glamor-**Actor seeks** ous boy in their affluent Connecticut town, and he threatened to "do it again and kill her" if she ever told

anyone about the attack. She stumbled home, bat-tered and bleeding, and told her supportive parents about what had happened. The police were informed and Kelly, soon to be dubbed the "preppie rapist", fled the country to avoid trial, spend-

with a vengeance at some of New York's

crustiest private schools, which have all

now abolished the use of the grade "F"

for fall — in their marking systems.

The old blunt way has been dismissed as "insufficiently nurturing" by teachers. Instead, they will use an assortment

of amusing euphemisms in an attempt

to make their dunces feel a little better.

ing the next nine years on the run in Europe. But his victim, whose mansuetude masks a

The Brearley School has opted for the label "weak". The Nightingale-Bamford School, however, has plumped for NS

(needs strengthening); the Calhoun School for NGA (not grade-appropriate); the Brooklyn Friends for NAG (needs additional growth), and the Trevor Day School for RT (requires teaching). There

is, as yet, no talk of abolishing the "A"

TUNKU VARADARAJAN'S

would one day send her rapist to prison. And she did. In July this year, after a harrowing trial in which she gave testimony, Adrienne, now Mrs Ortolano, captured New York's imagination by asking the judge to show Kelly no mercy.

will of iron, swore that she

In her victim-impact statement, a feature of the Ameri-

Schools fail on exam truths

can sentencing process, she said, weeping openly in court:
I have been living in constant fear since I was 16. I may look OK, but inside I am not OK. I will never be OK."

Kelly was sentenced to 16 years in jail. That appearance in court, and her dogged pursuit of Kelly, have made Mrs Ortolano a Joan of Arc figure. Kelly had been leading a sybaritic life on the ski slopes of Switzerland when private

publicly that she would now devote her free time to help women to cope with and fight against rape, she said: "I am not ashamed because I was raped, and I don't think other women should be." She had recurring nightmares for years in which Kelly came back to kill her. Mrs Ortolano will now

undertake a speaking tour of local colleges, at which she will warn and educate young women about the dangers of failing to speak out against

Ortolano helped to trace him.

This week, announcing

She says: "I still get nervous and my voice quivers. But when I do speak out, I get such a wonderful response, it gives me the feeling that I'm doing the right thing."

Of the post I receive here from Britain, the item that I look forward to perhaps the most is the Oxford University Gazette, an endear-ingly pedantic weekly publication. This week's issue contained, in the section listing doctoral dissertations to be examined, a reference to a thesis submitted by a theology student called T. Mawson of The Queen's College: "How could I know I had been resurrected?" Mawson will be examined on December 2. Let us pray for success.



Adrienne Ortolano, who swore to get her rapist jailed

Cultural revolution installs new hero

THE Opium Wars, long consigned in Britain to the quiet of school textbooks, are alive and kicking in New York's Chinatown.

This week, to great fanfare, residents unveiled a statue of Lin Zexu, the official who wrote an angry letter to Queen Victoria in 1839, asking her to stop British traders
who smuggle opium to seduce the Chinese people and
cause the spread of the poison to all provinces". Lin then had several warehouses of British opium torched, thus also ig-

niting the Opium Wars. But why should he surface. after all these years, in New York? The answer lies not just in some nostalgic remembrance of things past, but also in the politics of contemporary Chinatown. Owing to massive immigration from mainland China, Fujianese now outnumber Cantonese. Lin was from Fujian. Cheng plained the attachment thus: For me, the statue of Lin Tsehu is my moonlight."

Author champions parents' right to bring up children

By Tunku Varadarajan

AMERICAN society is undergoing a process of forced parentectomy", in which schools, welfare officers, social workers and courts are treating parents like pariahs and usurping their traditional child-rearing functions", a new book contends.

Baldwin: political aims

a new role

CONFIRMING that political

life in America has sunk to a

new nadir, the actor Alec

Baldwin (known almost ex-clusively as the husband of

the film star Kim Basinger)

has revealed that he has

In an interview with New

York magazine this week, Baldwin, who has never quite

managed to break into Holly-

wood's first division, gibbers:

What's the job I'd want to

have? I'd say Senate. Gover-

nor. I'd love to be Governor of New York. It would be great."

Overheated observers have

wasted no time in calling

Baldwin "the Democratic

Ronald Reagan".

gubernatorial ambitions.

According to Dana Mack, author of The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family, an ideologically-driven cadre of "child-rearing profession-als" has taken control of America's children, promoting the "dangerously erroneous idea that parents are bad for children".

Focusing mainly on schoolteachers and "social work bureaucrats". Ms Mack, who might be described as a conservative feminist, argues that there is "a pronounced antifamily bent" in the institutions that are supposed to be helping parents to bring up their children.

She excoriates the country's

educational system for turning its back on the traditional skills of reading, writing and arithmetic and crowding the syllabus with courses on sex education, drug education. "death education", sexual abuse prevention and "life skills". One mathematics programme co-ordinator in Massachusetts is quoted as saying that traditional arithmetic is "unfair because it imposes a 'right' and a 'wrong' answer, thus foisting a 'White Western' ethos on children'.

Ms Mack treats this as a metaphor for the way parental authority is being undermined in the classroom. Educators. she says, adhere dogmatically to their own ideology: this emphasises "choice" and "equality", and "excludes the moral dictates, rules and authority" that parents would prefer to inculcate. The classroom is the stage on which the following message is constantly displayed: "It is up to institutions, not parents, to rear chilthen".

Among the stories she cites is a school held trip mortuary in 1990 in which ten-year-olds were "enjoined to touch the corpses". Many were traumatised for weeks. Some parents told Ms Mack things such as: "My kid already knows about condoms -at six." Parents also doubted the appropriateness of teaching 12-year-old boys about homosexuality.

☐ The Assault on Parenthood: How Our Culture Undermines the Family, by Dana Mack, Simon & Schuster, New York, \$25.

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Rich rush to Patagonia in property boom

THE barren, windswept lowlands and lush green Andean foothills which make up Patagonia have become soughtafter property for the rich and famous who are keen to buy huge landholdings in what remains one of the world's most remote and unspoilt

The Patagonia property boom was sparked by the Italian brothers Luciano and Carlo Benenon, who became the biggest landowners in Argentina when, six years ago, they bought more than two million acres in a rugged flatland area of Patagonia that streches across three southern

Patagonia refers to a huge area of land occupying the southern cone of South America, south of the Rio Colorado and north of the Straits of Magellan. Most of it belongs to Argentina and encompasses the provinces of Neuquen. Rio Negro, Chubut and Santa Cruz. On the other side of the Andes is a thin slice that

belongs to Chile. The Benettons were the first to move in on a flatland area around the Rio Chubut. shunned by most Argentinians as too arid and remote. It is inhabited by small communities of sheep farmers whose forebears settled from Wales

along the rocky Atlantic coastline of Patagonia in the 1860s. The Benetton brothers are

said to have invested more than \$100 million (£62 million) in the ranch, where they breed the 270,000 sheep whose wool is exported to jumper factories in Treviso, northern Italy.

The Hungarian-born billionaire, George Soros, owns 964,000 acres just south of the province of Buenos Aires. where he breeds cattle. His estancia - ranch - run by Argentine gauchos, produces grain and milk.

Mr Soros is said to have invested \$160 million in Ar-



Soros: investments in hotels and cattle ranch

gentina, including hotels in the lusher side of Patagonia, on the foothills of the Andes around the ski resort of

The region's untouched beauty appears to have been what lured the American CNN media baron, Ted Turner. He and his wife, Jane Fonda, have had a wood and stone mansion built in the Andean foothills, amid the idyllic setting of a nature reserve where deer roam and trout-filled rivers abound.

The 12,000 acres that make up the Traful estancia, in the province of Neuquén, are valued at \$6.5 million. President Clinton and his wife Hillary visited the Turner property, which is surrounded by evergreen trees and snowpeaked mountains, during their visit to Argentina last month. Sylvester Stallone's love of

hunting led him to buy 30,000 acres in San Martin de los Andes near the resort of Bariloche, a forested area dotted with glacial lakes.

Low prices and the huge expanses of uninhabited, unspoilt, countryside have been the major attraction. An acre costs between \$40 and \$100. The embracing of freemarket policies by Argentina and Chile have also made it easier for foreigners to buy



Patagonia's remote and unspoilt scenery, low prices and development potential are attracting foreign celebrities

land. Previous populist and military regimes had attempted to "modernise" and develop industry in the region, but failed because of its distance from major population centres. The Government of President Menem in Argentina has promoted Patagonia as an environmental protection

In the past, Patagonia was also a stamping ground for

explorers, outlaws, missionaries and Welsh immigrants who sought isolation to preserve their language and culture. Its name derived from the word pata, Spanish slang for big foot, which was given by colonisers who on arrival saw large footprints left by a tall tribe of indigenous people in the region.

These nomads wore animal skins on their feet, giving them a larger appearance. Bruce Chatwin's In Patagonia also describes some of the eccentric and violent characters who roamed the harren land, such as Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid.

A Peronist party congress-man, Mario das Neves, who opposes Patagonia becoming "park for celebrities", failed last year to prevent non-Argentine nationals from pur-

Fernandez, the director of the rural landowners' society, said: "Rich foreigners are cre ating employment in these remote rural areas and bringing money into the country. We welcome this."

Chile has been less welcoming. Attempts by foreigners to create a nature reserve and conservation zone have failed

need of land are no longer at

the top of the list. Land will be

distributed chiefly among for-

emilias. Desdig

ises of "transparent" consul-

tations in the selection of

farms, there has been no

The expropriation has al-

ready begun, with govern-

ment officials this week

delivering the first letters noti-

fying owners of their impend-

ing loss. The list is being kept

a secret until the Government

gazettes ali 1,772 farms. Farm-

ers have been warned by Kumbirai Kangai, the Lands

and Agriculture Minister, that they will lose all chance

of negotiation if they talk to

Those who attended the

meetings said that the list was

riddled with mistakes. It

made no attempt to adhere to

undertakings by the Govern-

ment to apply a policy of "one-man, one-farm" and to select underutilised properties or those owned by absentee

"When we heard the names

being read out, it was just

ridiculous," said one farmer who asked not to be named.

"Some are listed under the wrong owners. Some are in

the wrong provinces. Some of

the owners have been dead

There are several black

commercial farmers listed.

"There is a complete lack of

land," the farmer added.

any professional assessment

"It's clear there is vindictive-

ness against many of the

people selected."

the press.

contact with the union.

WORLD SUMMARY

2,000 held in foreign prisons

are in prison abroad, with considerably more than half of them sentenced for drug offences, and last year British embassies were notified of the arrest of some 5,500 Britons (Michael Bittyon writes).

Spain, with 341, holds the largest number of Britons in jail, followed by France with 294, America (241) and Germany (101). The Foreign Office, issuing the figures in its annual report on the consular service, said that British officials made 8,157 visits last year to Britons in prison

Luxor arrests

Asynt, Egypt: Egyptian police said they had arrested 45 Muslim militants and identi-fied the first of the attackers who killed 62 people in the Luxor tourist massacre this week. They said Abdel Rahman, who had returned to Egypt recently from Sudan and Pakistan, had met accomplices in caves near Badari in the southern province of Asyut before the attack, in which six Britons died. (AFP)

Village shooting

Vienna: A 36-year-old man ran amok with a pistol in the Austrian province of Salzburg. shooting dead six people, including a three-year-old girl. When police caught up with him, he turned the weapon on himself. The dead included the man's neighbours, and the deputy mayor of Maur-erndorf, a village south of Salzburg, who tried to mediate in the dispute. (Reuters)

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Septuplets well

Des Moines: The largest of the McCaughey septuplets was breathing on his own and was removed from a ventilator yesterday. His six brothers and sisters were making "significant progress", a doctor said. The seven had been on ventilators since birth. The doctor said the others were following a more "typical time

Police cleared

Warsaw: A provincial court acquitted 22 former riot policemen of killing nine miners, the first fatalities of the 1981 communist martial law crackdown against Solidarity. About 100 people in the court in Katowice shouted of "Shame! Shame!" when Chief Justice Ewa Krukowska said the evidence was inadequate to prove guilt. (AP)

Hope for Abiola

Lagos: Moshood Abiola, the detained Nigerian presidential claimant, is on a list of 75 political prisoners who may be freed by military ruler General Sani Abacha, a local newspaper said. It quoted a member of a committee set up by the presidency to scrutinise detainees as saying the final decision would be taken by General Abacha. (Reuters)

No Year's Eve

Jakarta: There will be no public New Year's Eve parties in the holiday island of Bali to avoid clashing with the start of Ramadan, Islam's holy month of fasting. Nearly 90 per cent of Indonesia's more than 200 million people are Muslims, although Bali is predominantly Hindu. Private celebrations, including those in hotels, will be allowed. (AP)

Whites despair over Zimbabwe farm seizures

FROM JAN RAATH IN HARARE

LEADERS of Zimbabwe's Peasant farmers in desperate commercial farmers completed a series of despairing meetings yesterday to tell members, mosti whites, which farms are to be expropriated by President

Officials of the Commercial Farmers' Union officials have addressed anxious gatherings of farming families around the country this week, reading out from a list of nearly 1,800 farms drawn up by the Gov-ernment for forced purchase. "There is heartbreak," said a senior official who asked not to be named. "People just sat there stunned. They don't know where tomorrow is any more.

In the most determined campaign against the country's small white community since independence in 1980. the ruling Zanu (PF) party is confiscating 12 million acres of white-owned land, 44 per cent of the total area under commercial cultivation.

Economists say the loss of the nation's most economically vital sector will create major disruption in a country aiready in political and eco-nomic crisis. They see Mr Mugabe as dominated by militant guerrilla veterans of the war against white minority rule in Rhodesia, who are demanding money and farms for helping to bring him to

The Government has no money with which to compensate farmers or for resettlement costs. Earlier this month Britain rejected a appeal by Zimbabwe for £150 million.

Afrikaner clan counts lost acres

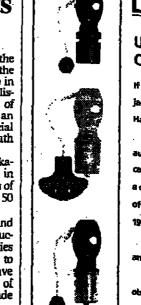
Harare: The five men of the Erasmus clan sat with the other farmers in Masvingo in southern Zimbabwe and listened silently to the list of farms being read out by an official of the Commercial Farmers' Union (Jan Raath

This close family of Afrikaner stock, farming in Chatsworth, 125 miles south of Harare, for more than 50 years, have lost heavily.

Coert Erasmus Jr. 27, and his father run a highly productive cattle ranch that supplies prime beef to Europe and to the local market. They have been left with a quarter of their 35,000-acre ranch, made up of several small units.

His uncle, Jannie, has lost more than half his ranch. Another uncle, Koos, got off lightly with the loss of a third. "We will just carry on as if nothing happened," said Coert. "You can't just pack up and run away. We will take it

as it comes."



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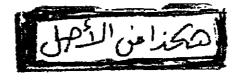
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Murder manual aided multiple killer, say judges

IT WAS murder by the book. James Perry meticulously followed the instructions in Hit Man, a how-to paperback for would-be contract killers, to carry out three cold-blooded executions.

Perry was quickly caught and is on death row in Maryland. But in an unprecedented twist, the book's pub-lishers, Paladin Press, are being sued for aiding and

It is a bitterly fought case that has put America's vaunted freedom of speech and the press on trial. An appeal court has just ruled, in a scathing opinion, that Hit Man goes

Paladin's president, Peter Lund, vowed yesterday, dur-ing a visit from America to his cottage in the Cotswolds, that he will fight the case all the way to the US Supreme Court. At issue is the right of Paladin Press and its competitors to publish books that give detailed directions on how to commit crimes, not only murder, but building grenade launchers and other lethal weapons at home, robbing banks, cracking safes - even how to dispose of a body.

The spread of these manuals for mayhem is causing alarm. In the first Oklahoma City bombing trial prosecutors said Timothy McVeigh had three Paladin books. One explained how to make explosives with ammonium nitrate. the fertiliser in the bomb that demolished the federal build-

ing, killing 168.

After the World Trade
Centre bombing, the US Justice Department said the perpetrators had bomb-making information copied from books published by Paladin Press and others.

Lawrence Horn, an out-ofwork sound engineer, hired Perry to kill his ex-wife and quadriplegic son so he could inherit a \$2 million (£1.25



million) trust fund intended for the boy. Perry shot the ex-wife and the son's nurse through the eyes, as instructed by Hit Man, and suffocated the son. The prosecution said Perry followed 22 of the book's recommendations in committing the murders.

Yet despite the book's em-phasis on making a clean getaway, it was not the perfect crime. Police cracked the case by tracing phone calls from Perry to Horn, who has been sentenced to life without parole. The civil suit seeks damages from Paladin Press for the victims' families.

Some of America's most prestigious newspapers, pub-lishers, broadcasters and journalism organisations filed amicus briefs supporting Mr Lund, who contends that a verdict against him would have a far-reaching and chill-ing effect on press freedom. They included The New York Times, The Washington Post and the ABC network, owned by Disney.

In their unanimous ruling. the three appeal court judges said it was "breathtaking", to say the least, that national media would feel obliged to defend Paladin's assertion of a constitutional right intentionally to assist murderers with information it knew would be



used in the commission of crimes.

Reversing a lower court decision, the judges said mate-rial that directly aids and abets criminal activity cannot enjoy the protection of the Constitution's First Amendment, which says Congress shall pass no laws abridging freedom of speech and the

The ruling said the detailed instructions in Hit Man stand in sharp contrast to vague rhetorical threats of politically or socially motivated violence that have always been part of

policies and government that indispensable to a free society and rightly protected. Mr Lund and his lawyers admit the crime was egregious. They express sympathy for the bereaved families. But they ask why their books should be banned while there is no censorship for hundreds of novels, films and television dramas that describe how to

commit crimes in detail. A former Green Beret in Vietnam, Mr Lund stoutly defends his right to publish and be damned. He says the case has already cost him



Lund at Paladin's warehouse in Boulder, Colorado

Serb poll to test peace accord

FROM TOM WALKER IN BANJA LUKA

DIPLOMATS and moderate Bosnian Serbs are hoping that parliamentary elections this weekend will finally end the political career of Radovan Karadzie, the wanted war

crimes suspect. The woman backed by the West in her attempt to get the Bosnian Serbs to comply with the Dayton peace accord. Biljana Playsic, faces the first

test of her public standing. If her political party fails to make substantial gains and a resurgent strain of Serb radicalism makes ground, the West may be faced with the unpalatable fact that the Dayton accord is unworkable and that Bosnia will fall apart.

More than I.1 million have registered to vote in the Republika Srpska elections, including about a quarter of a million refugees living outside the entity, many of them Muslims.

None of the mainstream parties contesting the election advocates a unified Bosnia. but moderates who are rallying around Mrs Playsic's Serb People's Union mollify impatient diplomats with a onecountry, two-entities vision. □ Vienna: Former Yugoslav warring factions have completed arms reductions agreed last year by destroying nearly Eide, a senior Western arms negotiator. (Reuters)

Spain says wider Nato role tied to deal on Rock

From Charles Bremner in luxembourg

yesterday accused Britain of trying to use its integration into Nato as a means of forcing it to give ground in its claims to sovereignty over Gibraltar.

Abel Matutes, the Foreign Minister, said Britain was trying to take Nato as a hostage" after Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, gave a frosty reception to Madrid's latest proposals for settling a squabble over Gibraltar airport.

Britain has made clear that it will not back current moves to bring Spain fully into the integrated military structure of the Atlantic alliance unless Madrid eases longstanding restrictions on the movement



"English ... Spanish ... I couldn't give a monkey's"

of aircraft and ships in and out of the British territory. "If Spain is going to become a normal member of the alli-

British official said. Rules imposed by Spain two decades ago say no aircraft or tween from the Rock to Spanish territory. Aircraft taking off are forced to perform abrupt manouevres to avoid

ance, we do not think these

restrictions should apply," a

infringing Spanish airspace. Señor Matutes presented the first formal Spanish proposals on the dispute at a onehour breakfast meeting with Mr Cook before the start of yesterday's EU employment summit in Luxembourg.

He suggested stationing Spanish military personnel at the airport, which is on land claimed by Spain, and sharing responsibility for air traffic control in the area.

Britain and the Gibraltar authorities had already sig-nalled that these conditions would be unacceptable. Britain was dismayed that Señor, Matutes had decided to present the proposals formally, officials said.

Spanish officials were angry over what they called the high-handed" tone taken by Mr Cook.

UN team back in Iraq to search for arms

FROM MICHAEL THEODOULOU IN NICOSIA

HOW far President Saddam Hussein of Iraq may have exploited his confrontation with the United States to conceal documents and equipment related to his suspected weapons of mass destruction will become clearer when United Nations inspectors re-

sume work today.

Between 70 and 80 UN arms experts, including Americans, returned to an icy reception in Iraq yesterday. "Down with America," read banners along their route into Baghdad from an airfield where they arrived from Bahrain. Their first task will be to assess how far their mission may have been set back by the three-week standoff.

America's mistrust of Saddam's intentions was underscored by its continuing military build-up in the Gulf. A second aircraft carrier, the USS George Washington, arrived before dawn while two of six F117 stealth fighters, ordered to the region before Russia provided the ladder for Saddam's climbdown. landed in Kuwait.

Iraqi rhetoric suggested there would be further attempts to test the UN's re-solve. "Our victory in this battle will lead to several successes whose solid results will appear day after day," said al-Thawra, the newspaper of the ruling Baath Party. "We have proved to everyone that we have a national iron will."

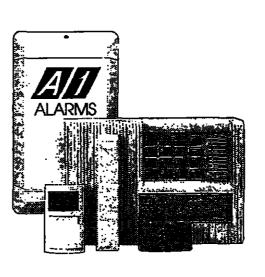
However Iranian officials said the Iraqi leader had played into American hands by providing the US with an excuse to boost its military might in the Gulf, which lehran regards as its sphere of influence.

Vital weapons inspections had been suspended since October 29 when Iraq banned American monitors and other team members refused to work without them. The six Americans still in Iraq were expelled on November 13 and 68 non-American members were withdrawn the following day in protest. Richard Butler, the UN's chief weapons inspector, said only four Americans would return, explaining the decrease as part of a routine rotation.

During their absence. Iraq was accused of tampering with cameras on a remotecontrolled monitoring system at so-called dual use facilities where equipment for civilian purposes could potentially serve military programmes.

There is suspicion Saddam provoked the crisis because the inspectors were on the verge of an important discovery related to his biological

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Jobs summit soured by Spanish opt-out

FROM CHARLES BREMINER AND ANDREW PIERCE IN LUXEMBOURG

THE 15 states of the European Union last night embraced a modest package of measures for tackling unemployment after a lacklustre summit that both Tony Blair and French leaders hailed as a victory for their national ideas.

Objections from Spain, which has Europe's highest level unemployment level, soured the closing hours of the Luxembourg gathering and handed ammunition to critics across the Continent, who dismissed the special EU session as a talking shop. Under pressure from Jose Maria Aznar, the Spanish Prime Minister, the other 14 agreed to exempt Madrid from fulfilling deadlines for offering training to the jobless, the scheme's only concrete pledge.

The Luxembourg package commits governments to a more flexible labour markets. lightening the burden of taxation, promoting business and



to spur states to comply.

delighted by Mr Blair's back-

ing for an important role for

the "social partners" - em-

ployers' organisations and

unions - in modernising

The French leaders offered some diversion to their EU

colleagues when the Gaullist

President attacked the em-

ployment policy of his Social-

ist Prime Minister. M Chirac

lambasted the "mirage of dan-

gerous experiments that can

gravely affect the fight against

unemployment". The remark was instantly understood by

M Jospin's team to be a swipe

at his plan to enact a maxi-

The employment guidelines

call on states to offer work or

training to the under-25 job

less within six months of their

being out of work. The older

unemployed should be offered

a "solution" within 12 months.

States, with the exception of

Spain, are also supposed to

aim to offer training to 20 per

cent of all unemployed in five

working week of 35

work patterns.

hours.

The left-leaning British and French administrations proclaimed the summit a triumph for their contrasting approaches to absorbing unemployment, which has remained at more than 10 per cent of the EU workforce for the past five years. Mr Blair -Britain has half the French unemployment level - said the new measures "signalled fundamental change and a new direction for Europe".

They focused on skills and infrastructure rather than "the old ways of state intervention. corporatism and over-burdensome regulation for companies". The summit had been a substantial success for Europe and the United Kingdom", Mr Blair declared.

However, President Chirac and Lionel Jospin. his Prime Minister, hailed the summit as a triumph for France's drive to have the EU treat em-, ployment with the same rigour as monetary union. "Step by step, Europe is taking on a social dimension," said M

Germans hit back at 'Helmut Dole' jibe

FROM DEBORAH COLLCUIT

DISPLAYING an unfortunate lack of humour, the German Government has lambasted an article in The Sun that called the Chancellor "Helmut Dole".

A government spokesman expressed Bonn's disapproval in an official release, resulting in Thursday's story about unemployment receiving disproportionate media attention in Germany.

The equivalent of The Sun in Germany, Bild newspaper, adopted an unusually high moral tone and blasted the British tabloid for reporting that Herr Kohl's obsession with shaping up financially for economic and monetary union (EMU) had left its citizens jobless and too poor

to afford a pint of beer.

Bild called the Sun article. which dubbed Germany a "welfare wonderland" carrying out "state bribery" on a mass scale, as "a wild brew of half-truths". The government spokesman said it was "a concoction of deception".



James Nivette, above, with his son and girlfriend Gina Barnett, who was killed in California, Below, French police arrest Mr Nivette, now held in hospital

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French police hold **US** murder suspect

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS ...

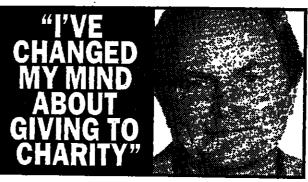
A PSYCHOLOGIST suspected of murdering his girlfriend and abandoning their 18-month-old infant by a Califor-nian roadside has been arrested in eastern France in a joint operation by the FBI and French police.

James Nivette, 55. who suffered a suspected heart attack after he was arrested, is expected to fight extradition on the ground that he could face the death penalty if convicted in California. American police launched

an international manhunt for the psychologist after his son Tyler, dressed in pyjamas, was found crying on a pavement near San Francisco airport before dawn on Monday. A television viewer identified the child and directed police to the couple's house in Sacramento, where they discovered the mother, Gina Barnett, 25. She had been shot eight times with a semi-automatic pistol. An American CBS television crew was on hand when Mr Nivette was arrested on Thursday at an apartment in Munster, on the Franco-German border Lasi night he was being held in a hospital in the city of Colmar.

The psychologist, whose licence was revoked four years ago for seducing three of his patients, has been charged with murder under an international arrest warrant.

There is no death penalty in France, and French courts seldom agree to extradite suspects who might face execution if sent home for trial. Mr Nivette may be afforded additional protection since, although born in the US, he had a French father.



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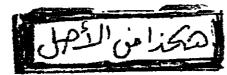
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Lib Dem win shows Tories' Hague's glimmer of unpopularity, says Ashdown

Conervatives say

Wiichester was

feak result

as amble ends inrout, writes

Janes Landale

THE iberal Democrats yes terdatcelebrated a stunning victor in the rerun general electic contest at Winchester as the Tories dismissed their drubing as a freak result.

Onlhursday, Mark Oaten transimed a two-vote majority ou the former minister Gerr Malone to a 21,556 triumpl The High Court had orderd that the May I poil be repezd after a challenge from/ir Malone. Pady Ashdown yesterday

joine Mr Oaten for a victory walkbout in the Hampshire city nd hailed one of the party greatest successes. Blear-eyed after the declaration 23am yesterday, and the chamagne party that fol-lower Liberal Democrat works turned out in force as passiz drivers hooted their congnulations. Mr Ashdown said he result showed the Toriewere still as unpopular as ear while his party's

suppo continued to grow. Lori Parkinson, the Tory chairmo, said the defeat was a "freakesult" and that voters had blated the party for making ther go to the polls again.

Mr Mione, the former MP, said th defeat was "unfinished briness" after the general eleion rout. There was a lingeng memory of the unpopurity of the last Gov-

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Crry Malone

Mark Osh (LD) 3
Gerry Mahe (C) 1
Patrick Dies (Lab)
Robin Pay (Ref/UK Ind All)
Lord DaviSuch (Monst)
Richard Ingett (Literal Dem)
Rosemardarry (Nat Law)
Roger Evest (Euro Con)

Total vote4,384 Turnout 68.74%

1997: Oan (LD) 26,100 Malone (C) 26,098 Dries (Lab) 6,528) Strand (Ref Pair) 1,598 Huggett (Top Choice L 640 Rumsey (UK Indep) 476 Brona (Ind Anti Fed Euro) 307



Mark Oaten, the victorious Liberal Democrat MP for Winchester, was joined by Paddy Ashdown yesterday

ernment and a lot of that stuck to me," he said. There were suggestions that Mr Malone, who was maintaining a cheerful face, might return to the newspaper industry, before standing for the Scottish parliament. "I have no immediate

animal," he said. In six months, the Liberal Democrats transformed a minuscule margin into the largest majority held by any of their 46 MPs. The High Court had declared Mr Oaten's twovote win in May void because of ballot-paper irregul-

plans but I am still a political

The party secured an almost 20 per cent swing from the Tories: about 8,000 people who had in May voted Tory backed the Liberal Democrats, who were also boosted by concerted tactical voting as some 4.000 Labour voters switched their support to Mr saw this as a good omen for future tactical collaborations. Labour, which had not put much effort into the campaign, lost its deposit, picking up just 944 votes.

A Literal Democrat candidate who gained 640 votes in May won just 59 this time. The scale of the Tory defeat,

which surprised even the Liberal Democrats, can be attributed to Mr Malone's unpopularity; an absence of animosity towards Mr Oaten among Tory voters; Labour voters' willingness to vote tactically; and the continuing unpopularity of the Tory party on a national level.

Some voters felt that Mr Malone had been a bad loser for refusing to accept defeat in May. That the courts ultimately judged that he had technically won then was ignored.

> Leading article and Letters, page 23

Muted cheers greet close call

BNICHOLAS WATT

AS victy parades go it was pretty the. Jacqui Lait, who had scaped home for the Consertives in the once rock-soil Tory seat of Beckenham, ranaged only a brief appearace in her new constituency sterday. The irner Whip, who had

lost Haings and Rye at the generalelection, revived her parliamntary career on Thursdy night by a narrow margirwhen she held Beckenhampreviously represented by lers Merchant, with a majori of 1,227 over Labour. The resit was an embarrassment for the Tories who have held it seat at every election

since iwas created in 1948. Looking gloomy and exhauste, Mrs Lait greeted unenthusistic shoppers for little more ran ten minutes on Penge ligh Street yesterday. The nw MP was defensive and barred her narrow victory c the weather. It had been filihy November day. cold, et and dark", she said. "Peop thought they would

prefero stay at home." Tor campaign workers. who hd slogged round Beckenhanduring the three-week campign, were so downbeat yesteray that Mrs Lait did not apear until just before midde. "I thought it was better hat I got some sleep. Otherise I thought people may a appreciate the sight of me," se said, trying to enliven

Buthere was little to cheer the capaign workers. One soon sid she would rather go



Jacqui Leit (Con) 1:
Bob Hughes (Lab) 1:
Rosemary Vetterlein (L/D) 5:
P Rimmer (Lib) J McAuley (NF)
J McAuley (NF)
T Campion (Soc Found Party)
J Small Nat Law Party

Total vote 31,908 Turnout 43.7%

1997: Přerz Merchant (C) 23,084 Bob Hughes (Lab) 18,131 Rosemary Vetterlein (L/D) 9,658 L Mead (Ref) 1,663 P. Rimmer (LIb) 720 C Prati (UK Ind) 506 J McAuley (NF) 388

home. It is pointless, the atmosphere is so bad." Mrs Lait, a usually bubbly person, headed for a smarter area, Beckenham High Street, to see if things were better. A few pensioners out shopping greeted her. One said: "I voted for Jacqui and she seems very nice. I think a lot of the old ladies did not bother."

hope fades to gloom

from their May I rout. However much special and unusual circumstances in both Beckenham and Winchester are discounted, the two contests wipe out the midsummer glimmer of hope of the increased Tory majority at the Uxbridge by-election. The party has not yet drawn a line under its defeat.

After Tony Blair's rough last few weeks, he will be relieved that Labour improved its share of the vote at the Beckenham by-election, from 33 to 37 per cent. The party's wipe-out in Winchester is largely irrelevant, set against the runaway success of Mark Oaten, the reelected Liberal Democrat. Of course, the near 20 per cent swing from the Tories to the Lib Dems is fantasy polities. But the result gives Paddy Ashdown a powerful answer against internal party critics of his closer co-operation with Mr Blair. Mr Ashdown's policy of has withstood its first key test. Lab-Libery will be taken a step further in the next

fortnight when the commission on electoral reform is

finally set up. But Winchester is unlikely to be the prelude to further Lib Dem by election victories against the Tories. Malone faced on Thursday will not apply in any other Tory-held seat where a va-

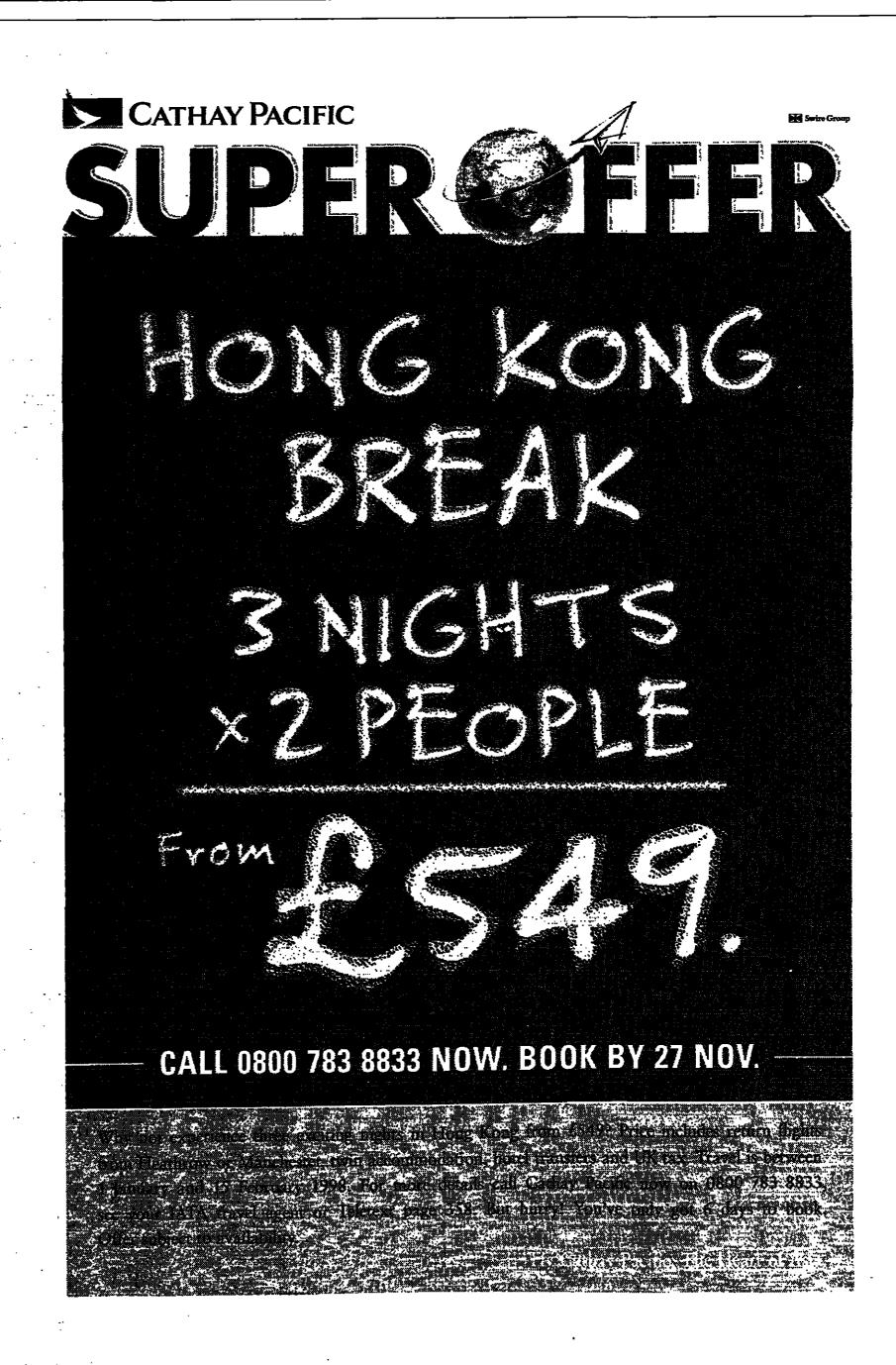
cancy occurs. Moreover, when, rather than if, the Government runs into mid-term unpopularity, the beneficiary is likely to be the Tories, not the Lib Dems. The old Liberal gains when Labour was in power, apart from taking the odd rundown inner-city seat such as Birmingham Ladywood in 1969 and Liverpool Edge Hill in 1979. David Steel was the last Liberal, in March 1965, to capture a Tory-held seat when Labour was in office.

This all depends on the Tories becoming credible. William Hague cannot be

unpopularity of Mr Malone. Nonetheless, 40 per cent of those who voted for Mr Malone on May I either stayed at home or backed Mr Oaten on Thursday. In Beckenham, where turnout fell sharply, an even higher proportion, 43 per cent, did not back Jacqui Lait, mostly in this case staying at home. Of course, voters do not like what they see as unnecessary

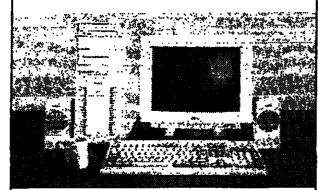
by-elections But the results show how much the Tories have to do to rebuild public confidence. In this respect, it was slightly bizarre to choose such a day to highlight Tory divisions over Europe. Peter Temple-Morris has been an increasingly semidetached member of the Tory party and did not complain about the axe descending. Nonetheless, this just shows that the Tories will endure more troubles before recovery starts.

PETER RIDDELL

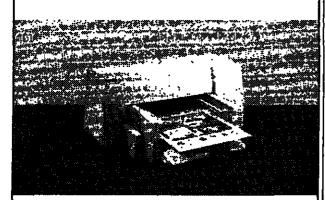


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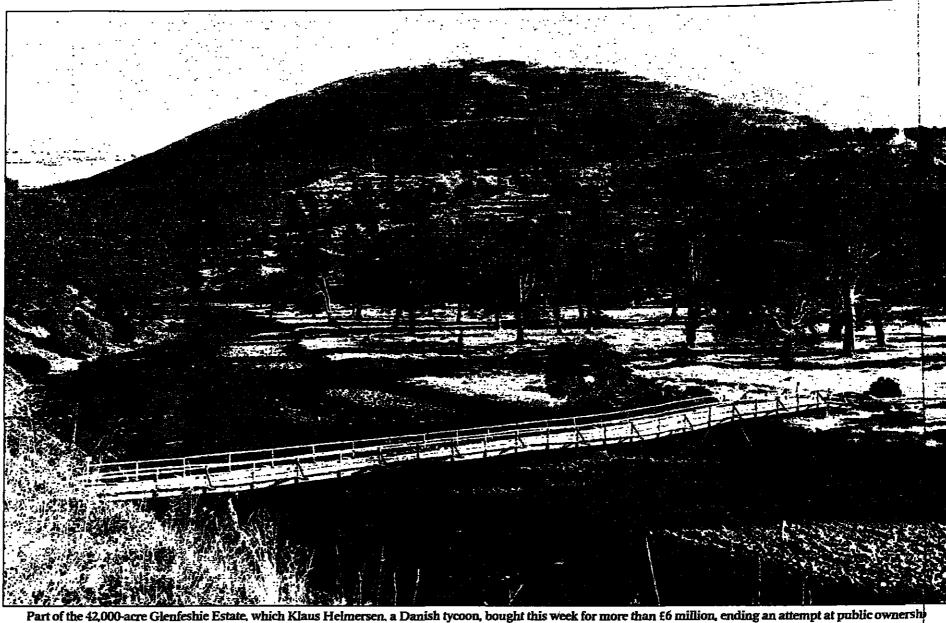
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Why Scots eyes are on a Dane

The new owner of the Glenfeshie estate will come under intense scrutiny next week when he begins talks with conservation bodies on the future of his private kingdom in the heart of the Cairngorms wilderness.

Representatives of Klaus Helmersen, the 52-year-old Danish multimillionaire who bought the 42,000-acre sporting estate this week for more than £6 million, have approached Scottish Natural Heritage (SNH), the Government's environmental agency, to arrange a meeting.

The approach was made as land reformers in Scotland were still taking in the news that an attempt to bring Glenseshie into public ownership had failed. A consortium made up of SNH, the National Trust for Scotland, Forest Enterprise, the Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the John Muir Trust had hoped to end years of damage caused by overgrazing from the large number of deer kept on the estate for sport.

Yesterday, Roddy Fairley, of SNH. said he was pleased that the new laird had made contact so quickly. "Glenfeshie is a spectacularly beautiful place, but its woodland and other habitats are being grazed into oblivion," he said. "The critical thing is to get deer numbers down to allow the woodlands to regenerate."

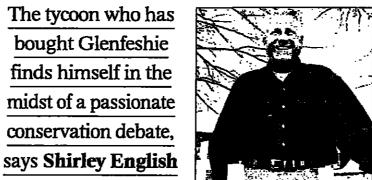
Glenfeshie is widely regarded as the jewel in the crown of the Cairngorms. Sir Edwin Landseer painted Monarch of the Glen there in the 1830s and Queen Victoria was among its many admirers. The consortium had planned to cull the

The tycoon who has bought Glenfeshie finds himself in the midst of a passionate conservation debate,

sheep and 1,124 stags and 695 hinds to halt the destruction of native trees. There are now only 600 acres of Caledonian pine left at Glenfeshie, one of only eight remnants of the once-mighty Caledonian forest.

Just over half of Glenfeshie is part of a National Nature Reserve, but most of the forest trees are now over 150 years old and all new saplings have been eaten. A recent report by the World Wide Fund for Nature said that Glenfeshie was "dying on its feet". The mountainsides have become scarred with tyre tracks, and deer fencing has killed off large numbers of grouse.

It is unclear whether Mr Helmersen was aware that he would become the most watched man in Scotland after his purchase of Glenfeshie. The six estate workers, who were assured that their jobs were safe, welcomed the new laird, as did the Scottish Landowners' Federation, while at the same time admitting that private ownership had failed in the past. But feelings were



running high in the village of Kincraig, population 300, on the edge of Glenfeshie, with people divided between traditionalists, mainly locals, and reformers, mainly middle-class newcomers.

This heightened mood, along with the reaction of the broader public and a thinly veiled warning by Lord Sewel, Scottish Environmental Minister, on the day of the sale, will have left Mr Helmersen in no doubt about public feeling. Lord Sewel urged Mr Helmersen's company, Danstrup-lund Holdings, to work closely with conservation groups or risk invoking a compulsory purchase order.

Yesterday, Jorgen Smidt, Mr Helmersen's representative, repeated assurances that the new owner was environmentally minded. He also indicated that the new laird had bought 800,000 saplings for replanting. But that admission was taken as naivety by environmentalists, who believe culling deer to allow natural forest regeneration is the best way to repair the damage at Glenfeshie.

PRIMUS

WHO OWNS SCOTLAND

British owned

1 The Forestry Commission1,600,000 acres 2 Duke of Buccleuch/Lord

Dalkeith: 4 estates in the Border 3 Scottish Office Agriculture Dept: 90 per cent crofting land

4 National Trust for Scotland: includes 75,000-acre Mar Lodge

5 Alcan Highland Estates: land used for electricity generation 6 Duke of Atholl, Sarah Troughton: Estates around Dunkeld/Blair Atholl

7 Capt Alwyn Farquharson: Invercauld on Deeside/smaller Mary Grosvenor: Grosvenor Sporting Estates, Sutherland

120,000 9 Earl of Seafield: Seafield estates, 105,000 10 Crown Estates Commission: 3 main estates, including Glenlivert

Foreign owner

1 Andras Ltd. Malaysia: Gleivon Calmgorms/Brauen, Inverne

2 Mohammed bin Rascid al Maktoum: Glomach, West Spula/ Inverinate, Wester Ross3,000 3 Kjeld Kirk-Christiansen, hid

of Lego, Denmark: Strathconon, Mid Ross 4 Profs Joseph and Lisbet Kerner, Swedish Tetra Pak heiress: Corrour, Caithness .. 5 Stanton Avery, USA: Duni

6 Mohamed Al Fayed: Balnagowan, Ross and Croa

7 Urs Schwarzenberg, Swittrland: Ben Alder, Inverness-tire 8 Count Knuth, Denmark: Eh mad al-Tajir, UAE: Blackford

Barra, USA: Barra and islans

From Who Owns Scotland Now?, by Auslan Cramb (Mainstream, 16)

Klaus Helmersen's wealth stems from his family company. Danstruplund Holdings Carli Gry International, a producer oci-sure and sports wear (Christopher Follett writes). The Carli Gry chain has uine shops in Britain, the latest in Edinburgh. The chpany was floated on the Copenhagen Stock Exchange 18 month ago, releasing a large sum from the sale of stock. Glenfeshie is st one of many recent property acquisitions. Other Danish lairds clude the Kirk-Christiansen family, who own the Lego toy grou They bought the Strathconon sporting estate, near Inverness, is 1995 from the MacDonald-Buchanan whisky distillers.



No Money To Heat The Orphanages

Bulgaria is a country in the midst of a serious economic crisis. Unless urgent help is sent, thousands of children will suffer terribly this winter.

There is little money to heat the orphanages.

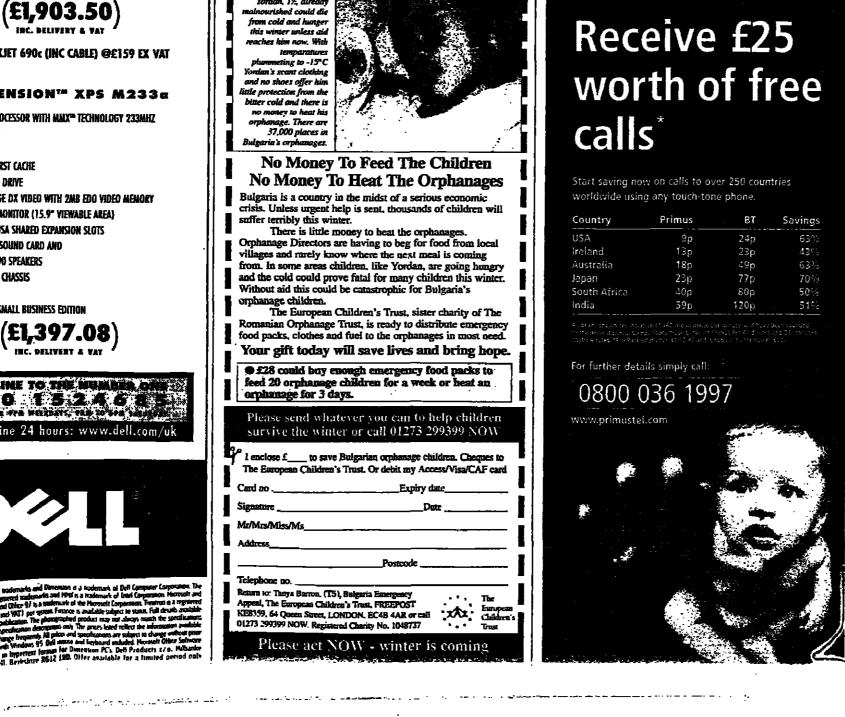
Orphanage Directors are having to beg for food from local villages and rarely know where the next meal is coming from. In some areas children, like Yordan, are going hungry and the cold could prove fatal for many children this winter. Vithout aid this could be catastrophic for Bulgaria's

The European Children's Trust, sister charity of The Romanian Orphanage Trust, is ready to distribute emergency food packs, clothes and fuel to the orphanages in most need. Your gift today will save lives and bring hope. #28 could buy enough emergency food packs to feed 20 orphanage children for a week or heat an orphanage for 3 days.

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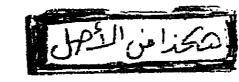
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Hampstead stuck in legal gridlock

A plan to cut congestion has been delayed by a handful of objectors.

Reports by Dominic Kennedy

wai on commuter traffic, a battle is taking place on her own doorstep between champions of the car and campaigners for the environment.

The wide avenues of her constituency, built to accommodate horse-drawn carriages, have become the scenes of such daily chaos that Ben Elton chose Hampstead in North London for the climax of his anti-car novel Gridlock, about a giant traffic jam. One of Elton's characters

says: "It is mayhem out there! The minute word goes around that anything above fifteen inches of London kerbstone has become vacant, it is a hattle zone, guy! They're all screaming 'Mine, mine' and spitting and snarling and throwing boiled sweets and road atlases at each other. People will kill to park! They will kill themselves to park."

Ms Jackson, the London Transport Minister, has isa Green

Paper that anticipates the end of free on-street parking, to stop commuters driving to work and dumping their ve-hicles all day. But two barristers in her constituency have shown how easy it is to sabotage the kind of residents-only zones which the Government now advocates. Using

legal arguments they have outwitted the Labour council in court to delay the introduction of parking restrictions by seven years, at a cost to local taxpayers of

thousands of pounds. The result is that commuters still flock to the area every day, fighting for space in what locals describe as the capital's biggest free car park. Feelings are running so high that Jonathan Turner, one of the lawyers, has been threatened with violence.

when Camden council turned the town centre of Hampstead into a controlled parking zone where residents had to buy annual permits to leave their cars in special bays. Commut-ers responded by leaving their vehicles in the neighbouring areas of Belsize Park and Primrose Hill.

Camden council intended to extend the residents-only parking zones to these areas too. Not only did this anticommuter policy fit with the borough's image as the most environmentally conscious in

s Glenda Jackson London, it is also a way of prepares to declare making large amounts of without putting up money taxes. Residents' zones create a profit of £6 million a year for Carnden, which the council uses to subsidise public transport for the elderly and infirm.

But some car owners resented having to pay to park outside their homes. They argued that residents-only zones would deter friends and relatives from visiting. The housebound would be lonelier than ever. Led by Mark Cran. QC, a barrister who has fought for the singers George Michael and Holly Johnson, ten Primrose Hill residents took Camden to court, Among the objectors was the former Downing Street caterer, Clare Latimer.

They persuaded Mr Justice McCullough in 1995 that, when Camden consulted local people, it had already made up its mind to introduce a zone. Camden had to begin consulting all over again. In summer 1996, the council

said it was ready to restrict parking 6 It is in Belsize Park January mayhem! Mr Turner, a bar-People will rister from Gospel Oak, argued that kill to park! the permit charges of £82 a year were They will excessive. Camden capitulated and paid MORI £20,000 to poll resthemselves idents across the borough about to park 9 what would be a fair price. The

people seemed to supported the current charge. In September this year, counsel warned Carnden that this was not enough: it would have to consult the people of Beisize Park alone on the cost of permits. May 1998 is now the latest target date for zones to

Ms Jackson is facing the frustration of old friends such as the playwright Peter Nichols, one of her election canvassers, who has long campaigned against the cult of the motor car. His 1974 play, The Freeway, was about a giant traffic jam.

Instead of completing his umpteenth questionnaire, Mr Nichols told the council: "Don't expect us to waste more time filling your office with waste paper." He says: "Camden has buckled under the personal reaction of one individual in Gospel Oak with crackpot objections."

He has nicknamed the area "Belsize Car Park", but when he wrote to Ms Jackson about this, he says, she just thanked him for his letter and enclosed

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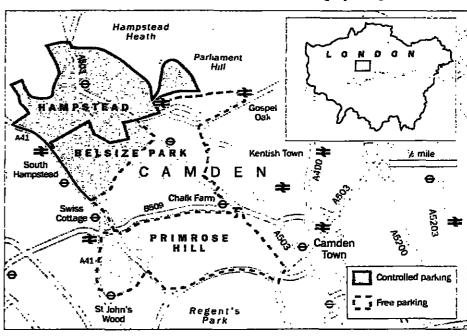








Mark Cran, Clare Latimer and Jonathan Turner have fought parking restrictions





The playwright Peter Nichols, who has long campaigned against the car; right, parents dropping off children at school are blamed for adding to traffic congestion

some Labour Party literature. Two residents have been awarded £250 compensation each by Camden after complaining about the delay. One of them, Angela Warden, said the area was a low priority to the council. "Some of it is old Labour and dinosaur views. They sneer at people living in Hampstead sending their

children to private schools," she said. So far, Ms Jackson has

A GIRLS' independent

avoided taking sides in public.

school cut traffic by a quarter

by encouraging pupils to walk, get the bus, or travel by

car in groups. The Royal School in Hampstead has

won praise from the Gov-

and is about to become a

offices and hospitals.

girls, Camden council

per cent in three years.

model for schools, colleges,

When governors wanted to increase the roll of day

said they could have plan-ning permission for an extra 50 pupils only if the "school ran" was cut by 30

The bursar, Lieutenant-

had dealt with logistics at

the Ministry of Defence.

compared the postcodes of all 108 day pupils. He sug-gested to neighbouring parents that they should

Colonel Michael Rixon, who

ernment's pollution advisers

But she will be urged to get off the fence when consultation on her Green Paper ends next

Friday.

Deborah Sacks, who chaired Camden's environment committee through most of the saga, said: "All the rules in the book have been used to try to delay the process. It is something that needs to be looked at in terms of simplifying the legislation."

Peter Nichols, page 22

share car journeys. Pri-

vate minibuses were ar-

ranged. The bursar also wrote to parents suggesting

they used smaller cars.

clined from 148 cars during the peak hour on Friday

afternoon to 114, a fall of

23 per cent. The school is praised in

the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollu-

tion's latest report. Its chair-

man, Sir John Houghton. said yesterday: "It is an excellent idea. A great deal more could be done by shar-

ing trips to businesses,

Within a year, traffic had de-

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shops and schools."

Camden has decided to use the same methods at a state school. Businesses in the borough are working on similar plans.

Leading article, page 23

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RAF officer's mistress 'would go with anyone'

Murder trial told of 'promiscuous' interpreter, writes Michael Horsnell

er for whom an RAF officer allegedly murdered his wife was a "tricky and promiscuous" young woman prepared to prostitute herself with anybody for her advancement, a court was told yesterday.

Within days of being told by Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker of the death of his wife. in a faked car crash, 21-yearold Dijana Dudokovic decided against joining him in England and began an affair with a Swiss restaurateur in the ski resort of Verbier, Norwich Crown Court heard.

The officer, who had had a five-month affair with her in Bosnia, where he served as a military observer, made daily telephone calls to her before and after the alleged murder. upon his return to Britain in July 1995. And he sent her a five-page letter in which he repeated the words "I love you" - like a "schoolboy's punishment".

But she tore it up without replying and burnt it, the court was told. The end of her affair with the 40-year-old officer was described to the jury by Bertrand du Pasquier, a former Swiss civil servant who served in Bosnia with the UN High Commission, on the fifth day of Mr Tucker's murder trial.

Mr du Pasquier told the court that after Miss Dudokovic received a call from Squadron Leader Tuck-



was found drowned under a

Squadron Leader Tucker: he had five-month affair Bertrand du Pasquier, left: he denied relationship

bridge, but only after her husband had asphyxiated her, er, she realised it was not possible for her to go in England to join him. "She it is alleged. The prosecution realised her future would claims that it was all for the break down and she said, love of Miss Dudokovic, who Now I am ready to do never saw him again and has anything. I am even ready to subsequently married. prostitute myself. I am ready Mr de Pasquier, who later

even to go with an old man in supervised elections in the former Yugoslavia, told the He added: "She was tricky." court that, at the request of She had a lot of friends in the Miss Dudokovic's father, who United Nations Protection worked in his office in the Force. "I know that she was a UN's Northern Sector headpromiscuous woman." quarters at Topuska, he ob-Squadron Leader Tucker tained a visa for her and paid denies murdering his wife her air fare to Switzerland. Mr Carol, 52, on the night of July du Pasquier said he returned 21, 1995 by staging a car accident in which his Ford to Geneva in June 1995 and the following month Miss Dudo-Fiesta plunged into the River Lark in Suffolk. Mrs Tucker kovic arrived to stay with him and his children at their home.

It was at the Swiss resort that she began an affair with Heinz Walder after meeting him at his restaurant, the Al Capone Pizzeria, and moved into his chalet.

Mr du Pasquier, now a consultant with the Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs, denies that he ever had an affair with Miss Dudokovic. He said that it was for compassionate reasons that he agreed to get her out of Bosnia. Asked why she had moved on from his home, he said: "She was ready to follow anybody."

He said he got "fed up" with the way the "manipulative" young woman used his home as a "sort of Post Office". "As soon as she arrived in Geneva at my home I had arguments with her about her behaviour. I tried to say to her to leave my home. When she finally met Mr Walder and decided to go with him, it was a very good solution for myself."

Miss Dudokovic left after allegedly taking a gold brace-let worth Sfr3.000 from Mr du Pasquier when he refused to give her money. He said Miss Dudokovic received calls every day from Squadron Leader Tucker during her two weeks in Geneva. These included one on the morning of Mrs Tucker's murder and one two days afterwards, on July 23.



صكذا من رلامل

Death of winchman blamed on ship's **SOS** delay

THE son of the helicopter winchman who was swept into the sea to his death while rescuing the crew of a cargo vessel forced onto rocks in Shetland said yesterday that they had been "incompetent and unthoughtful".

Alan Deacon, 24, blamed the loss of his father, Bill Deacon, on poor management and incompetence by the captain and crew of the Bahamas-based Green Lily. Mr Deacon, a Royal Navy petty officer, alleged that the handling of the emergency was motivated by money

His accusations were backed by coastguard sources, who said that both the crew of the Bristow helicopter, on contract to Shetland coastguard, and the lifeboatmen were furious over the apparent delay in the skipper's decision to radio a distress call in such terrible conditions.

The dead man's son told a news conference in Aberdeen: "It never matters how stupid or ignorant the people who get themselves into these situations might be - as with the crew of the Green Lily, who proved themselves to be completely unthoughtful and incompetent.

"Whatever way you look at it, the lack of leadership skills and good decision-making on behalf of the ship's skipper have led to the death of my dad. What that has been driven by is money. Strangely enough, money is something my dad always said is not important and that was never 🗣

ever his main concern.
"I always replied: It's just as well, Dad, because you could never get paid enough for what you do.'' Ezio Abram, the captain of

the wrecked freighter, wept yesterday during a press conference at Lerwick as he said he was "very sorry" that Bill Deacon had lost his life. Mr Abram then denied that

he and his crew had shown poor seamanship during the rescue on Wednesday afternoon. He had held a master's been with this company for a year. He said he had crossed the Atlantic 66 times and was used to sailing in bad weathe: The ship's owners, the No:

wegian company Green Chartering, also supported his decision not to abandon the Green Lily earlier.

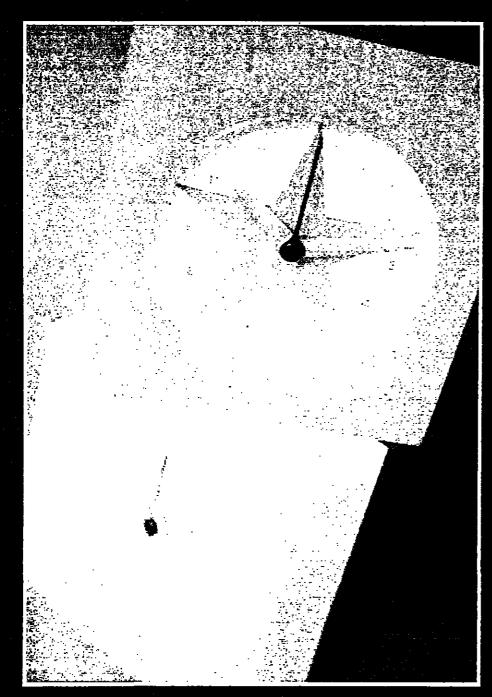
Mr Deacon's body was discovered on Thursday close to the island of Bressay.



rescuing ship's crew

THE SUNDAY TIMES

later spending several days

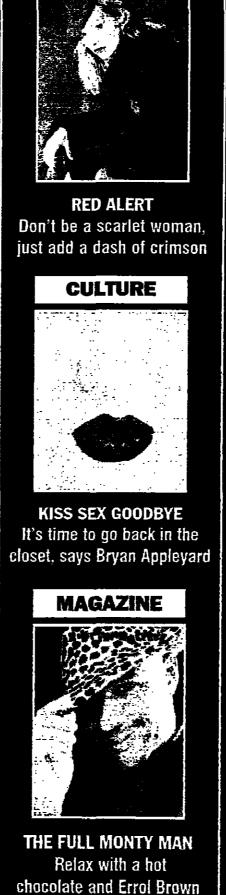


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STYLE

Raging thirst 'wakes little hibernators'

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

THE mystery of why hiber- little brown bats and goldennating animals such as mantled ground squirrels dormice, bats and hedgehogs over a range of hibernating wake up briefly during the temperatures. "Our analysis Scientists have evidence that, like human beings after a

deep slumber for a drink. Paul Bright, a zoologist at Royal Holloway and Bed-ford College in Eggham, Surrey, said yesterday: "With the dormouse, 70 per cent to 90 per cent of the energy expended during hiberna-tion is expended during these

One theory is that waste products build up and need to be flushed out. Other theories vary from circadian rhythms — natural cycles of sleeping and waking — to the loss of certain sleep patterns. But a team at the Univer-

sity of Sberbrooke in Quebec, Canada, and the University of New England in Armi-dale, New South Wales, believe dehydration is the key. Their findings are pub-lished in Functional Ecology, a journal of the British Ecological Society.
The researchers have calcu-

lated evaporation rates from

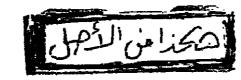
nonl may be influenced by evaporative water loss, indicating that the animals may need to obtain free water when they arouse," say the A study of the burrows of

the ground squirrels indicates they are designed to produce water droplets for drinking. Dr Bright said the findings were backed up by research in Britain, where studies of pipistrelle bats indicate a main cause of death during hibernation is dehydration. It is one of the main reasons to rise and lick moisture off a cave wall. "Dormice here almost certainly do the same thing," he said, adding that the nests of hedgehogs may also serve as

Studies show that dormice rouse themselves about every eight days and warm them-selves up to "full operating temperature". Dr Bright thinks it may be to keep all the organs in good shape. "It the car in winter to get the parts working," he said.



It's what you want to know



My obsession with the tango

Director Sally Potter became so passionate about the Argentine dance that she had to make a film about it - starring herself

here is no dance quite as seductive as the tango. It developed in the bars and brothels of Buenos Aires to the wistful, melancholy moans of the accordion and the violin: intimate, full of wordless passion, sexually suggestive, absorbing to watch, addictive to perform. Sally Potter's new film The Tango Lesson, filmed in glorious

black and white, passed the su-preme test this week: it opened in Buenos Aires ("I was terrified, as you can imagine") and the Argen-tine critics waxed ecstatic. At last, they said, someone from outside Argentina had made a film about their culture without clichés. And it is all her own work: she wrote it. directed it, stars in it, in three languages; she dances, sings, and wrote the original music for it. (Beat that, Woody Allen.) Potter is a remarkable person:

small, calm, with fine eyes and cheekbones and an aura of stillness and intensity. She left Camden School for Girls at 16 with a burning desire to be a film director. Bohemian, she says, is a good old-fashioned way of describing her family. "Very left-wing values, no money, but always music in the house, and enormous independence for the children." In the 1960s. she lived in squats, making short no-budget films, studying choreography and dance, washing vegetables in restaurants, learning how to live on nothing a year. In 1992 her fourth film, of Virginia Woolf's Orlando, appeared and was garlanded with awards, after years of persistence: "I have letters from producers saying Orlando was technically, ideologically, aesthetically and financially a total impos-sibility." How she now comes to make her screen acting debut at 47 is a story which forms the scenario of The Tango Lesson.

In 1993 she was working at home, at a round white table in an old warehouse in Shoreditch, writing a filmscript with the excellent title of Rage, a thriller set in Paris in the world of haute couture. Then she happened to go to an Astor Piazolla concert, and to the hit show Tango Argentino, and was taken over — consumed — by a longing to learn the tango.

'I'd been a choreographer. I' could recognise a seriously different vocabulary of movement. I was stunned by the complexity of the ence to what line you pursue." ... rhythms. And I loved the fact that teenagers danced alongside people in their fifties and sixties, that this dance had nothing to do with being young and thin and wearing Lycra

Seized by the desire, and blessed with a natural grace, she found an Argentine tango teacher in London, Carlos Gavito, at The Place off Euston Road — where she had once studied modern ballet. Tango invaded my consciousness. I was literally dreaming every night that I could dance much better than I could; like a flying dream."

Anyone who has taken up the tango in the Latin fever of recent years will understand this. I. too. have been dragged by my tangodancing, Argentina-raised hus-



band to the Friday night sessions at the London Welsh Centre — where Clive James is often seen, hooked on tango ever since he did his Postcard from Buenos Aires. Clive fits in perfectly: tango classes are full of stocky fellows in gangster suits who crush their parmers to their manly chests and "dance like angels", as Potter says.

When she went to Paris to do research for Rage, she was told she must seek out Pablo Veron, one of the world's greatest tango dancers. Folies Bergere, and started taking lessons with him every day - using French as their common language; hers is now excellent and her Spanish isn't bad either.

She then went off alone to Buenos Aires and returned five times in the same year. Yes, she sat in cafés all by herself, just as in the film. She took tango lessons every day, and was in the clubs every night till dawn without fail. (Buenos Aires is a city where a lone woman can feel safe, even at four in the morning.) "And I came back to Pablo a year later, having learnt quite a lot." Enough to perform in public as Pablo's partner in Amsterdam and Marseilles. How could she afford all those flights to Buenos Aires? "Debt," she replies. "I have long since learnt that the kind of tightrope I walk relies on keeping your nerve financially and creatively. You navigate the water and don't let money make any differ-

age was about to go into was there but she become disenchanted with her own idea. She could no longer stomach the idea of making a thriller. "I wanted to do some thing that came out of there" (patting her breast) "rather than something intellectually driven, trivialising death, holding the world at arm's length. I wanted to make something raw and immediate and different in scale from Orlando, which is epic." So why not make a film about the tango.

"Filming dancing is fiendishly difficult and takes enormous ingenuity. And how the hell do you integrate dance with a storyline

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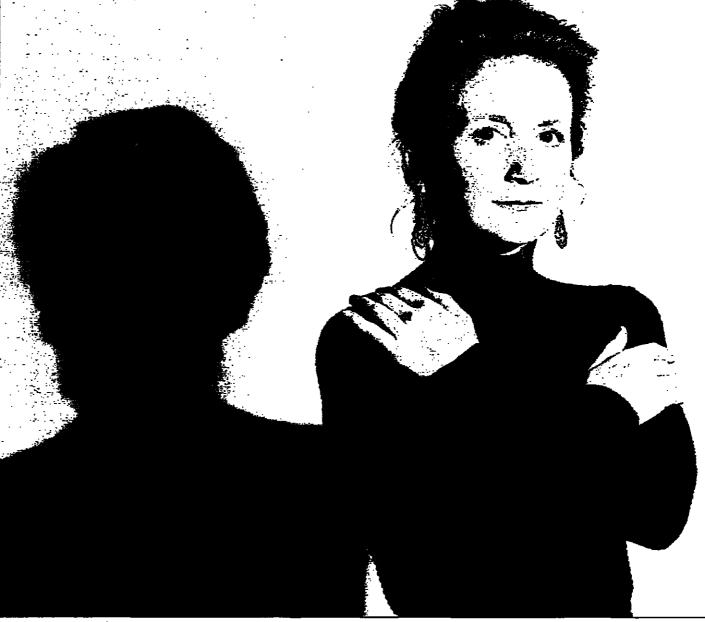
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The tango invaded Sally Potter's consciousness. "I was dreaming every night that I could dance much better than I could"

that's anything other than a clothesline of pegs to hang dances on? It was only then that I realised I had to venture into territory that was extremely close to the bone: I was living a version of it." She would film her own story. Her producer, Christopher Sheppard, organised the money (from all over the world) and it became a "let's do the show right here", about a film director (played by herself) and her tango teacher, Pablo, played by himself.

But would it seem selfindulgent to star in her own film? More like a merciless bility," she says. We see her tentative attempts at tango steps, her awkwardness in having to be led, her jealousy when Pablo dances with his partner. It is all the more touching that she is a woman of 47 with a lived-in face, and none of the attributes of the flashing eyed senorita; and all the

more touching for being true. Is she in love with Pablo in fact? She ponders. "I would say totally in love with him, in many and strange ways. It is a relationship driven by the love of work. We've talked about this a lot: the thing we recognise in each other is the



A scene from The Tango Lesson

complete primacy of work. We don't have a romantic relationship in the accepted sense. We made a decision not to spell out the letter of what our personal relationship is, because it would rob from the story in the film, which is about different kinds of love interweaving in a peculiar way.

"I always fall in love with people

I'm working with anyway. It's always two years of complete passion, and it's impossible in my view to be a director without profoundly loving the actors: you have to, to put them on the

She has never married, although she remains "involved". "But it's not a tie. I've always been completely free to follow my Muse. Pablo was also in that situation, but he, too, is so driven that both of us would drop everything for this." They have just been travelling around the United States launching their film.

Where did she Where did she learn to frame each shot? She is guided, she once wrote, by "visceral principles of proportion and composition". Michael Powell was her hero and mentor. The film is dedicated to

"my beloved father Norman Potter" who died just as filming began. The loss of him pervaded the whole experience, but not in a negative way. I was grieving, but I muld see his death in terms of what he'd taught me in life, and a love of men. Which is so much what tange is about anyway: love and loss and melancholy and painful embrace."

Her father called himself a poet, she says, but he was really a carpenter, and a teacher of design.
"He was dedicated to work. He said work is the clue to identity. "He was an autodidact who left

school at 14 and was full of curiosity and hunger for learning until the moment he died. I was brought up to know that the only things that you learn that really endure are the things you learn from experience rather than education. Both my grandmothers were actresses; so, to a degree, that is in my blood. All the reading Ive done is from my curiosity. Formal education never attracted me.

Everyone is born with curiosity, every child finds learning pleasurable. But most education seems to knock that out of people and substitute habit, which is not the same thing at all. So people become afraid of learning, and they don't pursue their dreams."

Sally Potter has pursued her dream. A brava!

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For a moment it seems as preposterous as a top-hatted stranger in downtown Haworth introducing himself to Emily Bronte with a cry of "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times". Yet Frank McGuinness is too interesting, bold and important a playwright to be shrugged off.

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Mutabilitie

Cottesloe

Mutabilitie is a clotted, wordy piece which even Trevor Nunn's lucid direction cannot render accessible or enjoyable. But the sometimes stilted dialogue cannot camouflage the quality of mind and imagination.

The action occurs after the Munster atrocities of the 1580s. events that, in McGuinness's view, crystallise the sometimes hot, often cold, war between the English and the Irish. Dispossessed rebels, led by a senile chieftain and his bloodthirsty queen, lurk in the woods, preparing for revenge on Spenser, who hopes to rid the Roman Catholic heathen of their "errors of law, custom, religion". Everywhere there are contradic-

tions. Spenser's wife (Diana Hardcastle) one moment mocks the Irish as "vermin", the next succumbs embarrassingly to their charms. Spenser himself (Patrick Malahide) runs mad as he tries to reconcile his horror at peasant sufferings with his devotion to Gloriana, alias the Faerie Queen.

As for the Irish, they are variously proud, sly, murderous, selfdestructive and fatalistic. Their final renunciation of their warrior past in favour of sackcloth, ashes and the power of prayer is, I suppose, meant to echo down the ons. But so is a healing and maybe rather sentimental ending in which childhood innocence thaws hard hearts.

A fierce Aisling O'Sullivan, a majestic Frances Tomelty and the rest of Nunn's strong cast leave you with great, gristly mouthfuls to chew on, not least the question of the function of the writer in troubled times. Should Shakespeare - in Anton Lesser's performance, a feisty Prospero — join the political fray or rely on his art to spread a more general humanity? The answer is a long time coming. but I was glad I stayed to hear it.

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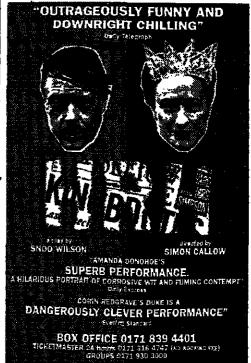
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to get away from it all

Flight is right — but don't bank

on paradise, says Simon Barnes

the hero of the week: Fenn Chapman, the Rugby schoolboy who ran away to Barbados instead of working for his GCSEs. He swapped exams and the English November for a dream of paradise: never mind gerunds and voltmeters, bring a large rum punch straight to my

personal palm tree. Running away is the most glorious of solutions to every problem in life. Running away from something bad; running towards something good - it is hard to separate these primary urges. Both stem from the conviction that a better life not only exists, but has a physical location. Call it

the Gauguin syndrome. Gauguin fled towards Tahiti in search of paradise. He found an island riddled with syphilis and French bureaucracy, but it took more than reality to worry him. Never mind what Gauguin found:

what he painted was paradise. James Joyce ran away, not towards. Anywhere that was not Ireland was paradise enow. His aim was to fly by the nets of religion and nation. It was a wild and reckless move and he could not do it on his own. He flew with Nora Barnacle. Joyce's

father summed up, accurately, as it turned out: "She'll 'Running away is stick to anyway." an act of Running away, then, has the highsupreme est artistic endorsecourage'

ment. Running away can be regarded as an act of supreme courage. It is, after all, through flight rather than

fight that you take wing. I ran away myself, once. i did not, alas, find myself in a land of brown-skinned ladies wearing nothing but the occasional flower; nor did I write Ulysses. I ran away (rather than towards) because being a provincial journalist was so frightfully boring, and I was so frightfully bad at it. But also. I had a romantic vearn-

ing for the East. It was an aspect of the time. Going to India was, in the 1960s, considered the solution to - well, just about everything. Western civilisation was over, man. Seek the truth in India, in Nepal. The truth meant sitting in cases getting stoned and hepatitis and

sometimes religion. For many that went (and survived), running away may have been a disappointment. But at least it was flight. Chapman knows that better than most. "He needed to get away to find his inner self. a friend told a reporter.

l did not run towards India. i ran away to Hong Kong and a job on the South China Morning Post, from which I was promptly fired. I did not expect paradise, or even naked women. But not expecting, I found nothing disappointing. Four years and a thousand adventures around Asia was, indeed, paradise enow. Flight is always good. So

There is no doubt about long as you are running hard, you are ahead of the game. Running towards is danger-ous. Seeking paradise is dangerous enough; expecting paradise is almost invariably

I read this week of a British couple who went to live in a paradise called Australia. John and Jackie Boyd are to star in a television documentary about the experience. It was ghastly. It seems they found the beer rather cold and the

sun rather warm. There is, of course, no pleasing some people. There are those who, lying on the Caribbean beach like James Bond in Dr No and seeing Ursula Andress emerge from the sea clad in white bikini, white belt and knife, would have sent her back on the ground that her belt needing

Such people believe that if it is happening where I am, then it cannot be paradise. I refuse to belong to any club that will accept me as a member. Which is one way of dealing with life. A miseryguts is

seldom disappointed. But there is a worse way of attacking life. That is to live in one place, utterly convinced location - and never going there. Mos-Moscow! Moscow! That is the

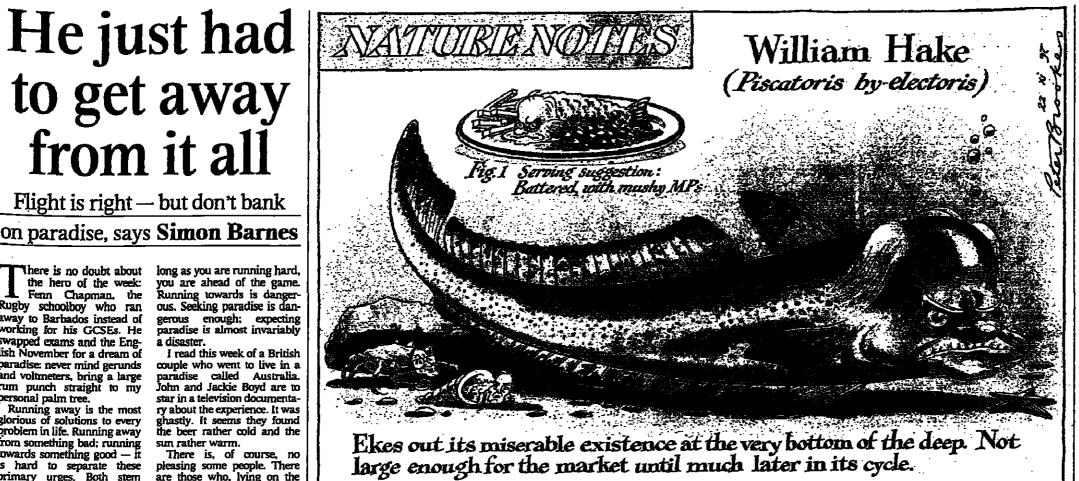
great cry of The Sisters: "People don't notice whether it's winter they're happy. If I lived in Moscow, I don't think I'd care what the weather was like "

This other-country business can become just a stick with which to wallop your home, your family, your life. Francophilia is a traditional manifestation of this, and is still prevalent. When I find cheese served before the pudding, I reach for my revolver. So right-minded, Descartes, you know, and what's the English for cafetière?

owadays, America is more often encountered as a receptacle for dreams, for yearnings of paradise. It is also a mighty cudgel with which to belabour England. The glorious classlessness of America is a heady freedom for its occasional English visitors. New York,

New York! Actually, New Yorkers don't rave about the wonderful energy of their home town, still less its heady freedoms. They complain about crime and filth and the prices, and look forward to a visit to a gorgeous. trouble-free paradise such as

Still, I will give the last word to an American, one Bob Dylan: "The moral of this story/ The moral of this song/ Is simply that a man should never be/ Where a man does not belong. I And if you see a neighbour carrying/ Help him with his load,/ And don't go mistaking paradise/ For that



Monarch of hearts

ony Blair is already compar-ing himself to Disraeli in his dealings with the Queen. In preparing for this week's golden wedding celebrations, she told him: "Don't be too effusive." He said he could not obey this command. He said to her face at Thursday's banquet: "Sorry Ma'am, but I am from the Disraeli school of Prime Ministers." He enthused: "You are so dignified yet down to earth ... so unstuffy, unfussy, unfazed by any-thing, with a keen sense of humour and a mean ability for mimicry ... You are the Best of British." The Queen replied in kind. "I believe that there is an air of confidence in this country of ours just now," she said.

Britain was a glad, confident land.
This is a high-octane affair. New
Labour, New Empress of India. My
own contact with the monarch this week was more prosaic. She stopped me crossing Storey's Gate by "going walkabout" on her way from the Abbey. She looked fresh and relaxed, and smiled quizzically at a small crowd of tourists. She was on her way to what the spin-doctors dubbed "the people's banquet", at which she skilfully yielded to her critics without seeming to do so. Thus does a wise Sovereign nudge another sandbag on to the anti-republican dyke.

How different it all seems from just three months ago. Of all the drivel regularly written about the British monarchy, none is as drivelling as greets a royal crisis. "The monarchy cannot survive this shock," the media screams at each divorce. This is the end of the monarchy," proclaims each revelation of adultery. "Another nail in the coffin of the monarchy." was trumpeted at the death of Diana. On each occasion, "the monarchy is in crisis ... under threat ... can

never be the same again". This week was the antidote. As Diana's funeral was a well-crafted mix of collective and personal grief, so the golden wedding was a mix of marital celebration and constitutional renewal. The inclusion of "ordinary" people at the banquet contrived to be more than a gimmick. The Queen's speech, though drenched in spin, was a masterpiece. It identified monarchy with democracy, both

requiring "the support and consent of the people", albeit in different guises. The monarch duly promised to hear the people's message, to pene-trate the obscuring veil of "deference and rhetoric" that she is (intriguingly) aware surrounds her office. The As the head of a troubled family, the Oueen has won herself new affection

head that wears the crown lies always uneasy, but it lies secure. Thus is the business of Diana, the field of flowers, the scars and bruises, deftly tucked into the box of history. How well the British constitution recovers its equilibrium. The centre always holds. Mere anarchy is loosed upon other worlds, but not on

Yet this week did more than shake "new Labour" glitter on the British monarchy - and vice versa. It acknowledged a change in the concept of family royalty which, for 30 years, has hesitantly underpinned the British Crown. In the mid-1960s the Queen decided, on the advice of

her then secretary William Heseltine, to make the Royal Family a public adjunct to her reign. Previous Royal Families had been little seen and rarelv heard. This one should appear on television and share

in public duties. The royal children would harness family values to the cause of heredity. The public might find it hard to identify with a Queen, but it could surely see in her family a mirror of its

This strategy has been tested to destruction. The collective monarchy, "the firm", has been sullied by one catastrophe after another. Of the Queen's four children, three embarked on marriages that failed. The fourth remains determinedly unwed. The self-proclaimed first family has been no advertisement for the sanctity of wedding vows, nor for the stability of family values. To be fair, it

no longer pretends to be. The marriage of the Queen and her husband has survived for 50 years and has been strong. Yet the most effusive lesson that Prince Philip could offer in commenting on it was that "tolerance is the one essential ingredient to any happy marriage". The Queen replied in kind. She referred to her husband's "forthright manner" and complimented him as her "strength and stay". This was meagre fare for a nation freely and

publicly invited to the golden wed-

ding feast. Might not a certain fourletter word have sneaked past the

scriptwriter's pen? Yet all public talk about families tends to be either trite or tripe. The poor Archbishop of Canterbury, in his Abbey address, had to steer a perilous course. Choosing his platitudes with care, he intoned that marriage was "a basic building-block of any society and the surest foundation of family life". Given the track record of his regal audience, he wisely added that he meant no rebuke to "those for whom [marriage] has never been a way of life, or those whose experience of marriage has been neither as long-lasting nor as

secure" as that of the royal couple. The occasion was strangely underwhelming as an affirmation

familial joy.
I found it the more real for that. The past week has: emphasised what has been a long-

term shift in the status of the Royal Family as national exemplar. For explanation we must recall the reaction to the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. The scale of that mourning was not, in my view, due to her

beauty or status or charity work. It was due to her fall from grace. Diana at her wedding was ad-mired as a synthetic Princess, a creature of Barbara Cartland out of Hello! magazine. But happiness in public figures is dull. Only in their unhappiness do we feel close to them. By the time of her death, Diana was patron saint of the emotionally dispossessed. She was evidence that all the world's material blessings do not bring joy. They can rather bring illness, pain, loneliness, loss of love, a touch of malice, a reckless lust, a final tragedy. We are mean of spirit who cannot at least empathise with that. In her misery the new Diana became

soulmate to a generation.

The old Royal Family was as artificial a construct as the old Diana. That family was the creation of Crown and Church of England, of courtly counsel and BBC documenta-ry. Nobody could identify with such a family, rich, aloof and portrayed as incomparably happy. It was a card-board cutout, resembling all happy families - at best tedious, at worst

implausible. When the Royal Family hit trouble it became, after Tolstoy, "unhappy in its own way". It became a matter of inevitable and prurient public interest, but it also became real. It duly incurred not the distancing emotion of envy but the bonding emotion of sympathy. The wave of support that engulfed the Queen in her annus horribilis of 1992 returned when her vulnerability was on show after Diana's funeral this summer. Here was a family with problems, making mistakes and sometimes making amends. Thanks to the media, its heart was perpetually worn on its

Ido not understand the mystique of hereditary monarchy. Such intangible concepts are vulnerable to any puff of political ill-wind. What matters to a nation is a chosen head of state who can enjoy the lasting respect of the public. The Queen enjoys that respect. She might have enjoyed it had the Royal Family displayed three decades of smalloyed happiness. She might have enjoyed it had any troubles been concealed behind a veil of pretence. Wealth, palaces and ceremony can hold a monarch aloof from public gaze for a time. These conditions have not

nstead the Queen has come to appeal for a different respect, a more valid one. It is the respect that comes from acknowledging that affairs of the heart rarely go according to the book, in marriages or in families. Even the best-regulated families come unstuck and there seem no rules to guide them through the trouble. The Queen's experience of family life has made her seem more human, and more worthy of respect, than anything in her reign so

The Duke of Edinburgh may have sounded defensive when he declared his pride in his children, when he said that they "had done rather well under very demanding circum-stances. Millions of bruised parents knew what he meant. His family has been unhappy in its own peculiar way. Yet there it is, warts and all. I believe this experience has brought the House of Windsor closer to the heart of the nation than any golden wedding homily.

Jammed in a gridlock

Why must my park

be a car park? asks Peter Nichols

hen I was young, ours was the only car in our avenue. Not for long, though. My father thought this looked like showing off and put his Morris Cowley in the garage before too many neigh-

bours spotted it.
This was still the case until the 1950s. And even then no one sensed the danger ahead. There seemed no reason to remind drivers that streets weren't garages but thoroughfares. Every city in the advanced world has made the same mistake. China is avid to graduate from the bicycle and share our problem of finding room for several hundred million cars.

The broad avenues of London's Belsize Park, where I live, must have been in their day an efficient, elegant means of serving the large villas. Now every street is a day and night double row of vehicles and the gaps between them narrow with every advance in power steering. It is already no easy task for a pedestrian to leave the pavement. When lateral-steering becomes standard, any small openingthat remains will be finally closed. Even bus stops become parking places and buses have to bar the road while their passengers

squeeze on and off. But where to put all the cars? This question has defeated the Western world. A different view must be heard and heeded before our cities are stifled by steel, glass and rubber, by the noise of radios and horns; the wailing and whooping of alarms; the squelch and moan of cars and abuse from driven drivers who, like Gadarene swine, rush into and out of city centres that are no larger than market towns.

The car itself is not the culprit, any more than is the gun which goes off unaided. But both devices bring out the worst in people. We and our metropolis cannot cope. No city built for the carriage can give the car free rein. To earn the privilege of living in the city centres, sacrifices must be made. One can get about without private wheels. Of course, all bus, irain and Tube services should be far better - and free. If it can be done for the old and very young, why not for everyone? Taxis are also part of the public system. They are cars which are not garaged on the streets for most of the time. Their hire should be cheap and available, not run for high profit by warring cartels.

Party conferences scarcely men tioned traffic, nor ever will, as a proper solution would take longer than any government expects to last. And while MPs have special parking facilities, no change would ever be on the agenda. The quickest way to get proper public transport is to take away parliamentary parking. But who would have to vote for that? MPs

runners outlawed slavery and abolished hanging. The smokeless zone is a fact. Fish are returning to the Thames. I don't despair. Limited parking will come - indeed has come north and south of Belsize Car Park. The streets will be reclaimed and cleaned for the first time in decades. The flat-earthers may postpone it, so as to avoid paying for the privilege of throttling the public streets with their private hobbies, but just as traders are converted to pedestrian streets when they count their takings, so the majority will one day become carfree. Only then will they finally realise that what they had before was an auto da fé.

in Belsize Park.

Salsa sauce

DO not be alarmed if you catch a former Tory MP swaying rhythmically to a seductive Latin beat in the capital shortly: Phillip Oppenheim, the former Treasury Minister, rich kid and heart-throb, is to set up a Cuban restaurant and cocktail bar. The truncation of his political career in May has allowed him to realise his long-cherished dream of becoming a

restaurateur. His inspiration? A fascination with Fidel Castro, Cuba's communist dictator. Waterloo has been deemed the hippest locale for Cubana, which should pour its first daiquiri early next year.

"I've spent a long time in communist countries and have a keen interest," he said before jetting off to Cubz on a "fact-finding" mission. The man once tipped for the Tory leadership promises that Cubana's decor will boast a "strong communist influence". So will the walls he draped with images of Castro? "That would be too tacky even for a former Tory minister. Nor do I want to become a launchpad for a new Bay of Pigs." A



Oppenheim and Castro

former Mosimann's manageress will yet the food. And as Phillip was the most eligible bachelor on the Tory benches, it should attract Latino lovelies. So stand by for a reds-in-the-bed scandal.



"Simply magnificent proportions!"

• THE MONARCHY retains little suppliers of the six coaches used to bus royals around: "We put them in our standard buses. We didn't think they'd need loos or on-board service." The royal households were colour-coded. "We put the British in a purple bus and gave them Trevor Hopkins as a driver. Now Trevor has taken tour groups to Edinburgh, so he didn't need training. We gave him a map and told him to get on with it."

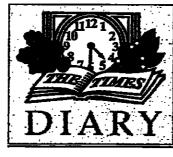
Fizz on hold

AFTER a gloomy sojourn in a Lancashire jail, the tycoon Owen Oyston could soon be dancing on the tables at Stringfellow's.

He has served 18 months of a sixyear sentence for rape and indecent assault, and his case comes to the Court of Appeal on Monday. Oyston's supporters are confident that fresh evidence will lead to their man's release. "There could be quite a celebration," says one rather mischievous friend. "The charnpagne and dancing girls are on their way." Oyston has more mate-

OLD TIMES "My purpose is to ensure that the result properly reflects the intentions of voters." Gerry Maione (May 17) explaining why he was mounting a High Court challenge to force a new vote in Winchester. He has handed the Liberal Democrats their safest seat in Parliament.

<u>and the state of the second o</u>



JASPER GERARD

rial concerns. "He can't wait to see what the people running his affairs have been doing in his absence."

 NEVER has an umlaut caused such offence. Lembit Öpik, the Estonian Liberal MP, is cross because Hansard fails to use two



dots to decorate his surname. "I showed them how to do it," says Opik, believed to be the first umlauted MP. "I had to point out the key on their typewriters." Han-sard has now conceded. "We don't usually do things like this," says a keyboard operative there, "but he kept banging on about it."

Fear factor

TEARS for Gerry Malone fell from normally dry eyes - belonging to hacks on The Scotsman. They tear that the failed, but tough, Tory will be offered the newspaper's editor-ship by his former flatmate and fellow Scot Andrew Neil, top dog there. Malone worked for Neil during his reign at The Sunday Times. Says one: "If he comes up here, I'm moving to Winchester."

■ WE were too strict in Diary Towers when we ticked off Lord Scarman for slipping away early from a debate. Lady Scarman was ill and Lord S wanted to be by her side, naturally. If I had known, I would have directed my fire at less dedicated statesmen. Sorry.

NEW TIMES The City has tallen to new Labour. Former advisers to Labour ministers, now making money there, have set up a dining club to delebrate their success. Filteen members will dine at Lexingtons, where the guest of honour will be a senior figure from No 10."



Keeping Cherie company: Peter O'Toole

PARTY TIME THE affections of Cherie Blair have been won by that celebrated old liverspot, Peter O'Toole. Tuesday night found them both in Leicester Square at the premiere of Fairytale - the True Story, a gushing flick in which the ailing O'Toole took a supporting role.
They got on so well at the

drinks party before the screening," purrs a fellow seat-filler.
"Cherie seemed rather impressed." So impressed, according to one suggestion, that she later accompanied the actor to the fashionable watering-hole

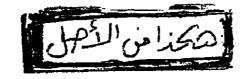
Soho House. Curiously, the stuffed shirts in the film's production office seemed keen to dispel the rumours. "She had her children with her and took them off after the show.

Meanwhile the Arts Minister, Mark Fisher, has been making himself rather unpopular at the theatre. Last week found him reclining in smart seats, appraising Shared Experience. There was a small hitch. He had not booked them. Enter Simon Cammell, a reliable cog in the British Council, who promptly told him to take his ministerial frame elsewhere.

IIII. MILITARIA RE

are not noted for altruism. Yet in better moments their fore-

The author is a playwright who lives



RDAY NOVEMBER 22 104 Jammed Why must my part he a car park? asks Peter Nich

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THEITIMES

NEW MONARCHY

A good week for the Queen, her Prime Minister and the Crown

Rarely in recent years has the Queen looked as relaxed, as happy or as friendly as during this past week. Her mood cannot be put down simply to anniversary delight or the pleasure of seeing Windsor Castle restored. Having downgraded her golden wedding celebrations for fear of public disapproval, she instead found a warmth of feeling which stretched from the wellwishers lining Whitehall to the hardened and sceptical press.

Why has the mood changed so dramatically in just 12 weeks since Princess Diana's death? The answer is that a vicious circle has turned virtuous. Before, the Queen's remoteness and formality aroused public hostility, which in turn must have reinforced her grim demeanour. But since her live broadcast to the nation the day before Diana's funeral, when she let the mask slip a little and acknowledged the need for the monarchy to learn lessons, the Queen has found that a little humanity reaps rich rewards.

Watching her in Whitehall with a helium balloon emblazoned "Happy Anniversary", only the coldest-hearted could have failed to smile. The new informality has not dented her dignity, as her advisers might have feared. Rather it has set in motion what a psychologist would call positive reinforcement: the more relaxed and friendly she appears, the more warmly the public responds, and that can only have the effect of making her happier still.

One of the architects of this new style is Tony Blair. A man who in younger days might have been indifferent to the monarchy has come to appreciate its merits. His speech at Thursday's "people's banquet" was sincere in its praise. The language of his body as well as his words themselves spoke of a relationship that is warm on both sides.

No Prime Minister would want to see the

monarchy collapse on his watch. Nor would most Prime Ministers be happy with the alternative, an elected President who might be tempted to meddle in politics. But we trust that Mr Blair is acting not out of expediency alone. Through his weekly audiences, his dealings with the Queen after Diana died, and the deepening of his appreciation at the Commonwealth Heads of Government summit, he seems genuinely

to hold the Queen in high regard. The man with a well-developed sense of the need for popular support has much to offer a monarch who is insulated from democracy by virtue of her position. She needs his advice. For, as the Queen acknowledged on Thursday, while the monarchy may not be tested regularly at the ballot box, it will cease to exist if the people decide that it has outlived its usefulness. No less than Mr Blair must she be responsive to public opinion, albeit in a measured way.

The hand of Labour could clearly be discerned in the seating plan of the banquet. The Queen shared her top table not with aristocrats and ambassadors, but with a community policewoman, a 25-year-old Guide leader and an assembly line worker at Nissan. Such placement serves two purposes: it looks good and it helps to keep the monarch close to popular concerns.

The reason that the monarchy has survived is that it has learnt to adapt with the times. Today's monarch, who had seemed to be stuck in the rigid 1950s, is only continuing the modernising tradition. She is also following her forebears in acting on the advice of her Prime Minister. At this rate, Mr Blair might do for Elizabeth what Disraeli did for Victoria: to coax the monarch back to public affection and entrench this great institution for another reign.

OLD FACES

By-elections show the Tories must break from their past

Thursday was, as Michael Portillo once put torate was, however, dwarfed by the anger it, "a truly terrible night for the Conservatives". Mr. Portillo's words, uttered on the evening of May 1, remain apposite despite the peculiar circumstances of the Winchester and Beckenham results. Both were, in their different ways, postscripts to the general election rather than new chapters in British

The circumstances of Piers Merchant's resignation in Beckenham were a coda to the comic opera of sleaze which ran throughout the Tories' election campaign. Gerry Mae's fortions attempt to win back Winchester was seen as sour grapes by his former constituents whose muted May warewell was transformed into a fortissimo 'good riddance". Taken together they underline the disdain which the Conservatives earned during their final years in office and emphasise painfully the formidable task William Hague faces in overcoming his

party's past record. Coming after the Government's most uncomfortable fortnight in office, when the Prime Minister's laurels began for the first time to look bedraggled, the scale of the Tory reverse was all the more striking. In Beckenham the Tories had, in Jacqui Lait, a personable and talented candidate whose presence will bolster the tiny contingent of able women on their benches. But she still saw her majority whittled almost to nothing. Her Labour opponent joins an elite band of government candidates in by-elections who saw their vote rise. Ms Lait undoubtedly suffered at the hands of voters irritated by the deceptions of her predecessor and further irked by having to turn out again so soon after the general election as a

consequence of his folly. The annoyance of the Beckenham elec-

of Winchester voters who were clearly piqued at having to remind Mr Malone that a majority of them had sent his Government packing in May. Both Mr Malone and Ms Lait may have suffered particularly as members of the Major Government that was so decisively rejected in the spring. The contrast with the earlier Uxbridge byelection, where a new, local candidate, unsullied by office, succeeded in increasing the Tory majority, will not be lost on the Conservative leadership. If Mr Hague is forced to field the same old faces, he may expect from the electorate the same old cry.

The Tory leadership should take Thursday's results not as a rejection of their programme of reform but rather as an encouragement to be more radical. The memories of an unhappy period in office can be effaced only by a comprehensive renewal of policy and personalities. For that reason, the withdrawal of the whip from Peter Temple-Morris is not only understandable but welcome. After the pointless equivocation of the Major years, Mr Hague should take the shortest way with dissenters. Mr Temple-Morris has been hawking what passes for his conscience around the television studios for too long. His flirtation with Labour was ended only because he believed he could better sabotage Mr Hague by staying inside the tent. Mr Hague paid that judgment the only possible compliment by kicking him out.

There is much more for the Tory leader to do: in democratising his party, being more open about funding, more modern in his presentation and closer to public sentiment in his policy. Winchester and Beckenham are melancholy warnings of the dangers of sticking to the past.

THE SCHOOL RUN

Glimmers of hope for mornings without pollution and stress

One of the surprises of old newsreel films is the sight of thousands of schoolchildren walking to school each morning. The camera rarely lingers on them: there was nothing unusual in youngsters, not yet in their teens, whistling down urban streets largely free of traffic. How different would be such a film today. There would be few children on the streets, and fewer still walking unaccompanied below the age of 11. Virtually no pupils would be found on bicycles. And around the gates of each school there would be a vast traffic jam of crawling, honking cars, pushing aggressively into the brief space by the kerb to let out one, or at most two, children. The road behind them would be blocked. As every commuter knows, daily life in the suburbs begins with road rage and delay.

For some schools, the morning jams have become a factor so limiting that they cannot increase their intake. Two things in particular have exacerbated the problem. The first is the expansion, under Conservative Governments and now also under Labour, of parental choice. The second is the perception that walking to school is no longer safe.

With schools competing for the best pupils, parents are encouraged to select those that offer the best above those that are nearest - even if this means a daily trek across town. There may, or may not, be a bus route; increasingly, pupils are expected to make their own way to school, relying on private transport. Schools appear indifferent to the problems of parking, traffic control and pollution. But what they, and parents, now believe is that walking to school, even if possible, is unwise. Intense focus on the rare instances of children molested or abducted suggests that predators await on every corner - though Home Office statistics show such crimes are no more common now than they were a generation ago. Undenjably, however, traffic is now so heavy, polluting and fast that the risk of accidents is greater than ever before.

Some years ago the Government inaugurated a Safe Routes to School campaign, encouraging local councils to police and clear the paths, pavements and crossings used by children. This has had a limited success; but it applies only at limited hours. Those remaining at school for hobbies or sports must still rely on parental transport. And increasingly, individual freedom is limited by lack of mobility. Young people are isolated at home, safe but lonely.

Both the Policy Studies Institute and the Audit Commission have highlighted the problem. Encouragingly, parents and some schools are now volunteering time and money to cut the morning crush. Chartering minibuses, policing footpaths, creating temporary one-way systems and abandoning four-wheel-drive vehicles for smaller cars, they are cutting pollution, congestion and in-

Private schools are the pioneers - not always with the help of councils that look on richer pupils with a jaundiced eye. But state schools too must tackle the traffic. Safety at school is paramount. But so is getting there safely, healthily and on time.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Britain's 'onerous' **EMU** obligations

From Mr Rodney E. B. Atkinson

Sir. In your issue of November 17 Charles Bremner reported from Brussels that German and French politicians are resisting British member-ship of the inner "Euro council" on the grounds that, as a Dutch official said, If you want to be at the table, join the euro club".

This might be a fair proposition if those countries which do not adopt the euro were released from all its concomitant obligations. However those who do not join

(called "pre-ins") are obliged to sub-mit to the rule of the Council of Ministers, while the European central bank is able to issue regulations binding in their entirety and directly applicable to all member states.

Under the Maastricht treaty those countries which do not join must transfer foreign reserve assets and contribute to reserves on the same basis as the national bank of a member state" which has adopted the euro. Furthermore, non-joining countries must co-ordinate economic policy with the Council of Ministers and "further the objectives of the Commu-nity". With such detailed and onerous obligations on those EU members outside the euro club it is extraordinary that anyone could suggest that they had not justified their place "at the table" of the euro governing council.

Yours etc, RODNEY E. B. ATKINSON, Alderley, Meadowfield Road, Stocksfield, Northumberland. November 18.

From Mrs Gillian Bardinet

Sir, There really are "none so blind as those who won't see". On November 19, as the EU 15 gathered for their jobs summit in Luxembourg (reports, November 20 and 21), figures were re-leased on French TV which show that not only unemployment but also poverty has increased in Europe since 1981.

To rigid and archaic social and fiscal structures have been added dangerous deflationary tendencies caused by straining after the convergence

There is no attempt to hide the damning figures. But so great is the belief that EMU is the cure rather than the cause that few seem to question these ominous facts, to which must be added the rider that EMU needs not only to be attained but sustained.

Yours sincerely GILLIAN BARDINET (President, British Conservative Association in Francei. 21 Rue Saint-Honoré, 78000 Versailles. November 21.

From Mr Richard Heller

Sir, The Prime Minister offered a vision in your columns today (article, "My plans to clean up party politics") of "a completely new world of electoral finance". However, he was silent about the funding of the coming referendum on European economic and monetary union and the extinction of the pound. In the 1975 referendum on EEC

membership the Yes campaign outspent the No campaign by a factor of II to I, without counting the official government propaganda in support of

Sir Patrick Neill's committee should consider whether it would be right to allow this imbalance to be repeated in the EMU referendum. Like its predecessor, its result will be more important than that of any general election - and a Yes vote would be irreversible. The Prime Minister, and Sir Patrick, should recognise that there is an even greater need for fairness and openness in referendum campaign spending than in election finance.

Yours sincerely. RICHARD HELLER, Oval Publishing, 30 Crewdson Road, SW9. November 17.

Reluctant peer

From Mr Denis Watkins

Sir. Roy Hattersley (report, November 18), who wants the House of Lords abolished, said that it would take him a "great effort of will to discuss style and titles with somebody called Garter King of Arms" and that "I just cannot imagine myself dressed in ermine robes . . . ". Despite this he has participated in arrangements to be gazetted as Lord Hattersley of Sparkbrook. This kind of behaviour is usually described as having your cake and eating it, although many may see it as good, old-fashioned humbug.

Yours faithfully. DENIS WATKINS, Ty Newydd, Velindre Crymych, Pembrokeshire. November 18.

Blood on the Nile

From Mr N. G. Gunton

Sir, I disagree strongly with your leading article today on the massacre at Luxor. Terrorism does not "feed on frustration and repression": it feeds on apology and weakness of response.

Yours faithfully. N. G. GUNTON. 65 Bolton Avenue. Richmond, North Yorkshire. November 18.

League tables of the best and the rest Essential mystery

From the Headmaster of Stowe School

Sir, Our school is at the "wrong end" of the exam result league tables (supplement and leading article. November 18) precisely because it aims to provide the best education for bright children. In a modern democratic society the only schools that can claim to be serving our children properly are those that can show, by example, the best of them how to value the rest of them; but for a school to include "the rest" is a recipe for its exclusion from the top division.

Streaming within a school can work well: two boys in different maths sets can stay in the same house, the same rugby team, the same debating society. But streaming between schools divorces them completely and forever. They will grow up in ignorance of each other: neither is well served by

Here at Stowe, Tom and Ed were a good partnership. Tom was headed for four good A-level grades in things mathematical: he was efficient and intelligent and invented administrative systems that worked. Ed inspired warmth, was good at rugby, knew the first name of everyone in the school, could persuade people to give Tom's systems a try, and was hoping by some miracle, and very hard work, to be able to pull off a couple of A-level pass grades.

They recognised each other's strengths, and learned to complement each other to get things done. They learned important lessons by being and working together, if not in the same sets or subjects.

Will the Toms keep coming to a school whose exam rankings have been so badly damaged by the Eds? Where else except at school will they learn each other's worth?

Believing passionately that the best and the rest should be educated together, we can live with a poor placing in the league tables: it hurts, but it is the price we must pay to do what we believe. However, unless it is properly understood why we are where we are, the parents of bright children will be wrongly deterred from sending them to us. Then, no matter what price we pay, we will be prevented from doing what we

believe. There will be even fewer bright children properly capable of understanding the worth of those who are less good at passing exams than they are, and little chance of sustaining a genuine democracy.

Yours faithfully, JEREMY NICHOLS. Headmaster. Stowe School, Stowe, Buckingham. November 19.

From the Headmaster of Colston's Collegiate School

Sir. Once again the Government's performance tables have been published with all pupils aged 15 being included, regardless of whether they sat any examinations.

As the number of 15-year-olds who do not sit the examinations in any school will vary from year to year, this information is misleading to parents and invalidates the results as perfor-

mance indicators. The DIEE has failed to come up with an adequate response to this problem. I would like to think that this inadequacy is reflected in its own performance indicators.

Yours sincerely, D. G. CRAWFORD. Headmaster, Colston's Collegiate School, Stapleton, Bristol. November 19.

From Mrs Gill Suddaby

Sir, Surely an A-level pass, whatever the grade, is more important to a young person for the rest of his or her life than the position of a school in a league table.

A local state-funded secondary school has recently adopted the policy of weeding out those students predicted as D or E grades nine months before the exam to safeguard their league position and, thus, funding.

Who pays the price for league tables? Who are we educating our young people for?

Yours faithfully. GILL SUDDABY, Stockhold Green Farm House, Thurston, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.

ernment told councils to cut their con-

tributions to pension funds in an effort

to keep poll-tax levels down. Allowing

councils to divert money away from

pension funds exacerbated the pen-

of the monarchy

From the Reverend Dr Ian Bradley Sir, In all this talk of a Royal Family more in touch with public opinion (article and reports, November 21) we are in danger of missing the essential

nature and purpose of monarchy. The monarchy is not a democratic institution, still less the creature of popular opinion, but rather a divinely instituted symbol and mystery. At their coronations, our kings and queens are anointed in a ritual which has its origins in Old Testament times and underlines the spiritual nature of their calling. They are thereafter ac-countable first and foremost to God and not to a fickle populace so easily manipulated and swayed by the mass media. Their role may not be to lead public opinion, though in deep and subtle ways they can both express the mood of the nation and also exert a powerful example, but most certainly

nor are they there to pander to it. We need to think much more about the religious basis of monarchy and the exercise of its spiritual function. In the case of our present Queen, it has been expressed in a sacrificial commitment to duty and public service and a sure and steadfast Christian faith fortified and nourished through regular churchgoing. In the case of her eldest son, who I fervently hope will be our next King, it may well take a different form, in keeping with his declared desire to be a defender of faith and his deep sensitivity to

spiritual issues. The Royal Family were clearly engaged in and deeply moved by Thursday morning's service at Westminster Abbey. Many of the courtiers and commoners attending it, by contrast, were caught by the television cameras chattering, giggling or maintaining a sullen silence through the great hymns of the Christian faith.

They might care to reflect on the message of those familiar words which rang through the Abbey as the Queen and Prince Philip left. God will save the Queen, not public opinion and certainly not the media.

Yours faithfully, IAN BRADLEY. 7 Strathkinness High Road, St Andrews, Fife. November 21.

Early retirement

From the National Officer of Unison

Sir. The picture you paint of early retirement in local government (reports and leading article, November is deeply offensive to council workers forced out of their jobs through redundancy. The endless cuts and reorganisa-

tions in local government have meant that councils have asked for "volunteers" for early retirement. Far from "allowing workers to retire early" many have reluctantly accepted this option feeling that they had a gun at their heads — either go voluntarily or be sacked with a much worse pay off. The fact is that local government workers have paid into their pension schemes for many years to provide for their retirement and are entitled to a decent pension.

The scandal is that in 1989 the Gov-

From the Chair of the Local Government Association

I Mabledon Place, WCI.

sions crisis we see today.

(Head of local government),

KEITH SONNET

November 13.

Sir, Your suggestion that the £5.7 billion cost to local authorities of early retirement over five years could be used to improve schools and roads, is misleading. The money is not available

for spending on capital investment. It is unreasonable to imply that local authorities choose to retire people early on dubious redundancy

grounds rather than invest in services which everyone agrees are grossly underfunded. The fact is that early retirement has been used as one way of catting expenditure in order to prevent deeper cuts to direct services. The genuine savings on long-term staffing costs have typically been recycled into

tions made in its report. Local govern-

Yours sincerely, JEREMY BEECHAM, Chair,

Local Government Association, 26 Chapter Street, SWI. November 13.

Winchester result

From Mr Ian Bowater

Sir, Your report today (later editions) on the Winchester result conveyed some surprise that, despite the Formula One campaign-funding scandal, Labour's honeymoon continues. Why?

After a year of tedious congressional committees here, the only thing certain about fundraising scandals is that they do not play well with the public.

Even the far less sophisticated American electorate knows that they Yours etc.

IAN BOWATER, 3171 Barry Avenue, Los Angeles, California 90066. ssims@ucla.edu November 21.

From Mr David Taylor

Sir. At the general election we watched panicking Conservative candidates rushing to denounce Europe and the

Since their disastrous result, we have seen the remains of the parliamentary Conservative Party harden

their line on a single currency in the belief that by clinging to the coat tails of Eurosceptic public opinion they will win their way back. In the light of the election results

from Winchester and Beckenham it is clear there is no public support for this anti-Europe stance and a further change of direction is needed if the party is ever to regain the support of the country.

Yours faithfully, DAVID TAYLOR, 20 Chepstow Drive, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. dtaylor657@aol.com November 21.

From Mrs Pamela Morgan

Sir, As a disillusioned Tory, I suggest that the Conservative Party changes its candidate for Winchester and its party leader: then it might stand a chance of winning back Winchester and the rest of the country at the next

Yours faithfully. PAMELA MORGAN. Rothiemurchus, St Cross Hill. Winchester, Hampshire. November 21.

By train and bike

From Mr Richard N. Hutchins

Sir, In 18 years of retirement I have enjoyed cycle-rail travel in all parts of Britain (letters, November 20). I am convinced that one of the best ways to combine these two useful means of transport is to go "folded".

There are now folding cycles on the market which match the performance of conventional cycles. Under the old BR rules, which seem still to apply. Folded cycles enclosed in a container or case . . . are treated as accompanied luggage and carried free".

My own strong cycle bag weighs just 14 lb, and my folding cycle weighs 28lb. I have taken them by bus, coach, plane and train without any difficulty, and for the past eight months I have been making regular visits to a sick relative in five different hospitals and homes in Surrey, some 80 or 90 miles from my home. Never once have I

used a car.

Seven years ago (March 13, 1990), in a letter which you published from me on the same subject, I offered to provide your readers with a free leaflet describing 75 leisure cycle routes between railway stations (now 150 routes, covering 7,000 miles); over 100 readers wrote to me in response. Clearly there is some interest.

Yours faithfully, RICHARD HUTCHINS. 171 High Street, Clapham, Bedford. November 20.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number -0171-782 5046

e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

new jobs, mostly in education and social services. The Audit Commission acknowledges that many local authorities are already following the recommenda-

ment itself urged a more rigorous approach six months ago, following advice from the United Kingdom Steering Committee on local government pensions.

Rude, but not very

From Mr Stuart Kershaw

Sir, Maureen Lipman is upset at Victor Lewis-Smith (Diary, November 19) because he called Vanessa Feliz a Yenta. Maureen need not worry. My uncle, a Yiddishophone of great sensitivity, habitually refers to his be-

loved wife, after 50 years plus of happy marriage, as the Yenta. It means "her indoors". Gossipy possibly. Cunning never. Yours faithfully. STUART KERSHAW,

Mill Hill, NW7. kershaw@winkworth hendon. demon.co.uk

November 19.

In a flat spin

From Dr David B. Cook

Sir, Along with a number of other gifted and hard-working people, my wife has a PhD, which involved the study of the magnetism due to the spin of electrons and nuclei.

Both of us find the current campaign of vilification aimed at spindoctors thoroughly offensive.

Yours sincerely. D. B. COOK. Department of Chemistry. University of Sheffield. Sheffield S37HF. d.b.cook@sheffield.ac.uk

Holiday reading From Mr Nicholas Russell

November 20.

Sir, I see that the summer holiday reading scheme was a success (report. November 20). May I recommend that some consideration should be given to running a scheme to teach reading in term time?

NICHOLAS RUSSELL, 37 School Lane, Haslingfield, Cambridge. nicholas@larmanprinters.bdx.co.uk





COURT CIRCULAR

Agricultural Society's new Mem-

bers' Pavilion at Staffordshire

County Showground. Western

Her Royal Highness, Patron, College of Occupational Thera-pists, later visited the Occupa-

nonal Therapy Department, Bucknall Hospital, Eaves Lane,

Bucknall. Stoke-on-Trent,

November 21: The Princess Mar-

garet. Countess of Snowdon this

isternoon visited Tyne and Wear

and was received by Her Majesty's

Ralph Carr-Ellison).
Her Royal Highness visited L.G.
Electronics North of England Limited, Birtley Road, Washington
The Princess Margaret, Count-

ess of Snowdon, President, the Guide Association, later visited

members of the Durham North Guide Association at Dryden Pro-

fessional Development Centre, Evistones Road, Gateshead.

Her Royal Highness, Colonel-in-Chief, The Light Dragoons, was

the Regiment at Blagdon Hall, Seaton Burn, and was received by

Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant o

Northumberland (the Viscount

November 21: The Duke of Kent, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief, The

(Carabiniers and Greys), this

morning prsented Duke of Kent Medals at the Cavalry and Guards

Club, Piccadilly, London WI.

Scots Dragoon Guards

Ridley KG).

YORK HOUSE ST JAMES'S PALACE

ent this evening at a Reception

past and present members of

Lord-Lieutenant (Colonel

KENSINGTON PALACE

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 21: Major General Sir Philip Ward (Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Sussex) was present at Gatwick Airport. London, this morning upon the Departure of The King and Queen of Sweden and bade farewell to Their Maiesties on behalf of The

The Baroness Farrington of Ribbleton (Baroness in Waiting) as present at Royal Air Force Northolt today upon the Depar-ture of The Queen of the the Netherlands and bade farewell to Her Majesty and His Royal Highness on behalf of The Queen. The Lord Haskel (Lord in Waiting) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon upon the Departure of The King of the Hashemire Kingdom of Jordan and bade farewell to His Majesty

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 21: The Duke of York this morning left Gatwick Airport, London, to visit Montserrat, the eeward Islands.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 21: The Princess Royal. Patron, the Butler Trust, this morning visited Her Majesty's Brinsford, New Road, Featherstone. Wolverhampton. and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Staffordshire

(Mr James Hawley). Her Royal Highness, President, later visited the Save the Children Shop, Il Bird Street, Lichfield, Staffordshire. The Princess Royal this afternoon opened the Staffordshire

Royal engagements

TODAY: tish Rugby Union, will attend the Scotland v Australia International Match at Murrayfield Stadium. Edinburgh, at 1.10.

TOMORROW: Princess Alexandra will attend a service in Winchester Cathedral to mark the Golden Wedding Anniversary of the Oueen and the Duke of Edinburgh at 2.55.

Inner Temple

Mr John Adams, the Registrar of Civil Appeals, has been elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple.

Memorial service The Right Rev Hugh Gough

A memorial service for the Right Rev Hugh Gough, former Archhishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia, was held yesterday at St Peter's, Over Wallop, Hampshire. The Rev Alan Graham officiated.
The Bishop of Liverpool and Mr
Tony Hope led the prayers. The
Right Rev AJ. Dain and the Bishop of Barking read the lessons. The Right Rev Lord Coggan gave an address.

Latest will

Robert Peel Charles Cracroft-Eley. of Lincoln, left estate valued at £725,419 net.

Weekend birthdays

TODAY: The Right Rev M.E. Adie. former Bishop of Guildford, 68: the Rev Lord Beaumont of Whitley. 69; Mr Boris Becker. tennis player, 30: Mr John Bird, actor and writer, 61; Ms Helen Browning, organic farmer, 36; Mr Jon Cleary, novelist, 80; Mr Tom Conti, actor, 55; Miss Jamie Lee Curtis (Lady Haden-Guest), actress, 39: Mr Brian Dance, former Headmaster, St Dunstan's College, 68: Brigadier Hilary Dixon-Nuttall, former director, Army Nursing Services, 58; Mr Terry Gilliam, film animator, 57; Sir Peter Hall, director of plays, films and opera. 67; Mr Stephen Hough, concert planist, 36; Sir Andrew Huxley, OM, FRS. physiologist, 80; Lord Iliffe, 53; Mrs Billie Jean King, tennis player, 54; Professor Sir John Knill, geologist, 63; Mr Neil McGrath, racehorse trainer, 41; Mr Peter McMaster, civil servant, 66; Mr John Newman, trade unionist, 66: Mr Justice Owen, 72; Mr R.M. Reeve, former Head Master, King's College School. Wimbledon, 63: the Earl of Romney, 87: Mr. H.A. Sweethaum, Michael Walker, diplomat, 81.

trical engineer, 75: Vice-Admiral Sir Geoffrey Biggs, 59; Mrs Anne Burns, former gliding champion, 82; Mr John Cole, broadcaster, 70; Mr Rob Denmark, athlete, 29; Colonel Sir Allan Gilmour, former Lord-Lieutenant of Sutherland, 81: Mr Michael Gough, actor, 80; Mr GJ. Hearne, chairman and chief executive, Enterprise Oil, 60; Sir John Hermon, former Chief Constable, RUC, 69: the Most Rev Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, 59: Sir Michael Knight, chairman, Cobham, 65; Sir David Lees, chairman, GKN, 61; Mr Christopher Logue, poet and au-thor, 71; Mr Alan Mullery, football manager, 56; Mr J.C. Oxley, former director-general, Guide Dogs for the Blind Association, 59; Mr Krzysztof Penderecki, com-poser, 54; Mr Anton Poot, former chairman, Philips Electronics and Associated Industries, 68: Lord Prossers, 53: Miss Diana Quick, actress, 51; Sir Peter Saunders, theatrical producer, 86: Sir Peter Strawson, FBA, philosopher, 78: Chancellor, Liverpool University, 63; Mr Nigel Tranter, author, 88; Lieutenant-Colonel George West,

Dinners

Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' The Lord Mayor, accompanied by

the Lady Mayoress and the Sher-iffs and their ladies, was a speaker at the annual livery dinner of the Gold and Silver Wyre Drawers' Company held last night at the Mansion House. Mr Nigel S. Nichols, Master, assisted by the Wardens, presided. Mr Peter Padley-Smith, First Warden, and Sir David Neuberger also spoke.

Among others present were:

The High Commissioner for Uganda, the Masters of the Broderers', Loriners', Glass Sellers' and Tobacco Pipe Makers' and Tobacco Blenders' Companies, the Principal of the Royal School of Needlework and representatives from the company's association with the Royal Air Force.

Assistant Commissioners' Mess Sir Paul Condon, Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, presided at the annual reunion dinner of the Assistant Commissioners' Mess held last night at New Scotland Yard.

Old Bedfordians Club

Mr M.R. Steele-Bodger was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the Old Bedfordians Club held last night at the East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. Mr J.G.P. Crowden, president, (OB 41-46) was the host, Mr I.P. Evans, Head Master of Bedford School, at-

Royal College of Radiologists Dr Michael Brindle, President of the Royal College of Radiologists, and Mrs Brindle, were the hosts at the annual dinner held last night at the Royal College of Physicians. Dr J. Boyce, Director of Health Studies, Audit Commission, was the speaker.

Among the guests were Lord Kilpatrick of Kincraig, Sir Denis Thatcher and Baroness Thatcher, LG, OM, FRS, Sir Kenneth Calman, Mrs Y Moores, Sir Donald Irvine and representatives of the Medical Royal Colleges and

London Chamber of Commerce and Industry

The Crown Prince of Jordan was the guest speaker at the annual dinner of the London Chamber of Commerce and Industry held last night at Grosvenor House. Sir Brian Jenkins, president, was the

199 Strand

A dinner was given by 199 Strand at Claridge's on Friday, November 21, 1997, to mark the retirement of Robin Stewart, QC, as Head of Chambers. The toast to Robin Stewart, QC, who continues in full time practice, was proposed by Peter Andrews, QC, his successor.



who have recently announced their engagement

Weekend anniversaries

BIRTHS: Richard Neville, (The Kingmaker), Earl of Warwick and Earl of Salisbury, 1428; Robert de La Salle, explorer in America, Rouen. 1643; Dugald Stewart, philosopher, Edinburgh, 1753; Andreas Holer, Tyrolese patriot, St Leonhard, Austria, 1767; Thomas Cook, pioneer of travel agencies, Melbourne, Derbyshire, 1808; George Eliot, novelist, Chilvers Coton, Warwickshire, 1819; Justin McCarthy, novelist and historian, Cork, 1830; George Gissing, novelist, Wakefield, 1857; Cecil Sharp, founder of the English Folk Dance Society, London, 1859; André Gide, writer, Nobel laureate 1947, Paris, 1869; Charles de Gaulle, general, President of France 1958-69, Lille, 1890; Hoagy Carmichael. pianist and composer, Bloomington, In-diana, 1899; Benjamin Britten, Baron Britten, composer, Lowes-

DEATHS: Sir Martin Frobisher, navigator, Plymouth, 1594; John Tillotson, Archbishop of Canterbury 1691-94, London, 1694; Robert Clive, Baron Clive of Plassey, Governor of Bengal, committed suicide, London, 1774; John Stackhouse, botanist, Bath, 1819;

toft, 1913.

The Times 1841-77, Ascot, 1879; Sir Arthur Sullivan, composer, London, 1900; Jack London, novelist. Glen Ellen. California, 1916: Sir George White, pioneer of electric tramways and aviation, and philanthropist, Bristol, 1916; Lorenz Hart, songwriter, New York, 1943; Sir Arthur Eddington, astronomer, Cambridge, 1944; C.S. Lewis, writer, Oxford, 1963; Aldous Huxley, novelist, Los Angeles, 1963; John F. Kennedy, 35th American President 1961-63, assassinated, Dallas, 1963; Mae West,

actress, Los Angeles, 1980. Today is the feast day of Cecilia, the patron saint of music, singers and poets.

The first Biro ballpoint pen went on sale in Britain, 1946. Juan Carlos de Bourbon was sworn in as the King of Spain.

TOMORROW BIRTHS: John Wallis, mathematician, Ashford, Kent, 1616; François Babeuf, revolutionary, St Quentin, 1760; Franklin Pierce, 14th American President 1853-57, Hillsboro, New Hampshire, 1804; James Thomson, poet, author of The City of Dreadful Night, Glas-gow, 1834; Marya Bashkirtseva, painter, Pultowa, Russia, 1860; Manuel de Falla, composer, Cadiz, 1876; Boris Karloff, actor, London,

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DEATHS: Perkin Warbeck, pretender to the throne, executed, London, 1499; Thomas Tallis, organist and composer, Londoo, 1585; Richard Hakluyt, geog-rapher, London, 1616; Hans Willem Bentinck, 1st Earl of Portland, statesman, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, 1709; Abbé Prévost, novelist, Chantilly, France, 1763; Sir Roger Newdigate, antiquary, Arbury, Warwickshire, 1806; Johann Bode, astronomer, Berlin, 1826; Friedrich Struve, astonomer, St Petersburg, 1864; Charles Booth, shipowner and sociologist, Leicestershire, 1916; Sir Arthur Wing Pinero, dramatist, London, 1934; Andre Malraux, writer and statesman, Paris, 1976. The River Thames froze, 1434. The first pillar boxes were erected

at St Helier, Jersey, 1852. The meat market at Smithfield opened, London, 1868. The first episode of Dr Who was screened on BBC television, 1963.

marriages Lieutenant J.K.P. Boorman, RN. Mr. J.H. Darge and Lieutenant J.C. Goddard, and Miss M.L. Toomey

Forthcoming

and Lieutenant J.C. Goddard,

The engagement is announced between Justin, youngest son of Mr and Mrs Thomas Boorman, of London, and Josephine, elder daughter of Mrs Frances Campbell-Colquhoun and the late Mr Hugh Goddard, of Teddington.

Mr M.R.E. Cooper and Miss O.C.G. Hollidge

The engagement is announced between Mark, son of Captain and Mrs Roger Cooper, of Charlwood, Surrey, and Olivia, daughter of Mr and Mrs David Hollidge, of Burwood Park, Surrey.

Mr P.R. Cox

and Miss A. Heaton The engagement is announced between Paul, only son of Mr Peter Cox. of Sandford-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Peter Mallalieu, of Sandwich, Kent, and Annalie, elder daughter of Mr Michael Heaton, of Spratton, Northamptonshire, and Antonia Heaton, of

Mr S.P. Oakley nd Miss R.M. Otway

The engagement is announced between Stephen, eldest son of Mr J.P. Oakley, of Sheffield, and Mrs F.C. Marshallsay, of Winfrith Newburgh, and Ruth, second daughter of the late Rev R.B. Otway and of Mrs Otway, of

The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs Andrew Darge, of Worcester, and Monique, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alan Toomey, of Huntly, New Zealand. The marriage will take place on April II in Huntly.

Mr J.M. Hadjipateras and Miss X.N.D. Lemos The engagement is announced between John, son of Mr Marcos Hadjipateras and Mrs Kalliopi Pateras, and Xenia. only daughter of Mr and Mrs Nicolas D. Lemos.

Dr S.C. Hellier and Dr K.D. Bridgland The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of Dr and Mrs Michael Hellier, of Aldbourne, Wiltshire, and Kate, daughter of Mr and Mrs Makolm Bridgland, of Slinfold, Sussex Mr M.D.L. Huntingford

and Miss T.C. Dougherty The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Captain and Mrs D.G. Huntingford, o Codeigh, Devon, and Tryphena, second daughter of the late Mr and Mrs T.G.C. Dougherty, of Goathurst, Somerset.

Mr S.L. Kacary and Miss M.L. Jones The engagement is announced between Sebastian, youngest son of the late Mr Eugeniusz Kacary and of Mrs Kacary, of Chelse London, and Marisa, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Clive Jones, of Llansannor, Vale of Glamorgan.

Service dinners

Exeter Plotilla Chief Superintendant Della Cannings, of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, was the principal guest at a ladies guest night dinner of the Exeter Florilla held last night

at the Royal Marines Commando Training Centre, Lympstone, by permission of Brigadier J.V. Nicholls, Engineer Lieutenant D.G. Mercer presided. Com-modore P.D. Stone, Commodore Amphibious Warfare, also spoke. Vice-Admiral Sir Edward Anson, lice-Admiral Sir Ronald Brockman and Rear-Admiral Sir Ronald Forrest were among those

Sharpshooters Yeomanry Major A.N. Gillman was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of

Sharpshooters Yeoma Association held last night at the Duke of York's Headquarters, Chelsea. Mr Guy Farage, chair49 Infantry Division
The annual dinner for the Polar Bear Dinner Club of 49 Infantry Division/49 Infantry Brigade was held last night at Cherwind Bar-racks, Chilwell, Nottinghamshire. Brigadier Johnny Walker presided

RAF Strike Command
Air Chief Marshal Sir John Allison, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, received the guests at a dinning-in-night held last night at Headquarters Strike Command. RAF High Wycombe. Group Cap-tain G.S. Harker presided.

Appointments

Mr Andrew Edward Wilson Park, QC, and Mr Nicholas Richard Pumfrey, QC, to be Justices of the High Court, assigned to the Chancery Division.

Mr Stephien Price Richards to be a Justice of the High Court, assigned to the Queen's Bench Division.

MAHARISHI FOLLOWERS **BUY MENTMORE** Mentmore, the Victorian mansion near

Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire, which the Government refused to buy for the nation, is to become an international centre for the study of transcendental meditation. The mansion, built between 1852 and 1854, with park, woodland and ornamental grounds covering 80 acres, has been bought for £240,000 by the Age of Enlightenment for Great Britain, otherwise known as the Maharishi International College.

The buyers are followers of the teaching of Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, who first received a lot of publicity in the 1960s. The college has its headquarters at Roydon Hall, near Tonbridge, Kent, and there are two other colleges in Cheshire and Suffolk, but they have not enough room for people taking study courses. A search, therefore, began for larger premises that could also become the college's international headquarters. Six weeks ago, still without a suitable house. the college telephoned the Department of the Environment, whose historic buildings office said that Mentmore was still for sale. Three companies were interested in turning the 60-bedroom property into flats, another wanted it for a recording studio, and one was interested

ON THIS DAY

November 22, 1978

In the 1960s the Beatles took up Indian guru, Maharishi Yogi. In 1978 the maharishi's followers bought for £240,000 Mentmore Towers, a Victorian mansion that had belonged to Lord Rosebery. Today the Maharishi Foundation is looking for new and bigger headquarters and Mentmore is on the market for more than E10 million.

in buying it for a private home. Mr Vesey Crighton, director of Age of Enlightenment in Britain, said yesterday: "The house has been empty for about a year. and although it is in good shape, I think people were beginning to worry about its falling into a bad state. We shall have to repair the roof and re-decorate, but it will not be expensive because our followers will do it in exchange for meditation classes. We hope that the people who work on the estate, whom we shall keep on, will be pleased that the house is being put to beneficial use, but we expect some initial local curiosity."

The college will use Mentmore for the advanced training of its 400 teachers in transcendental meditation, and it plans to run courses for foreign government officials. Followers include members of the Swedish Air Force, the Honduran Army, Norwegian commandos, the Canadian Civil Service, local government officers in the Philippines and female workers in Cl

Recently a group of doctors who practise transcendental meditation wrote to Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, urging him to make it available on the National Health Service. Mr Crighton said yesterday that discussions were going on about that. The method was already being used in a borstal, he said.

The sixth Lord Rosebery died in 1974 and his heir who lives in Scotland, was faced with about £5 million estate duty. There was a storm when the Government refused to buy the house and its treeasure trove of art and antiques from Lord Rosebery for a reported £3 million in lieu of the duty. Later the contents were sold at auction for £6 milion. Mentmore Towers was designed by Sir Joseph Paxton, best known for the Crystal Palace, and built for a Rothschild. It has a grand hall, five state and major reception rooms, seven bedroom suites and around 50 more bedrooms.)

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PERSONAL

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I set my heart upon possess-ing wisdom, and by keeping myself pure I found her. With her I gained under-standing from the first; therefore I shall never be at a less. Ecclesiseticus 51:20

BIRTHS

ACHARYYA - On November 15th at The Portland Rospital, to Diya (nés Lahiri) and Prabal, of Calcutts, a son, Dipam. BRYCE - James and Sesan (née Found) are delighted to announce the birth of their daughter, Eathryn Finna, on Monday November 17 th 1997, as Simpson Mamorial Pavilion, Maternity

CLEAVER - On Thursday November 20th at The Princess Royal, Haywards Heath, Royal, Goorge, as sun, Rex Charles George, a er for Eitty. EYRE - On November 3rd to Jill (née Passey) and Mark, a sun, Rufus Ambrose David, a brother for Assasints.

FELD - On November 15th, to See (née Card) and Clive, a son, Thomas Edward.

FOSTER - On 20th October 1997, to Time (née Davies) and Mark, a daughter, Isabella Kate, a sister for GORE - On November 18th, to Sarah (née Frizzuti) and Simon, a daughter, Marrie Rose, a sister for Sam and Milo.

LEADEM - On November 19th at The Portland Hospital to Susan and Richard, a son, Matthew Francis, a brother

PREDAM: Sue and Rigel Findar would like to announce the birth of their son, Charles Alexander Raymond at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, on the 19th November, weighing Site Son. PHEDER - On 20th November 1997, to isobel (nic Oglivia) and Charles, a daughter, Lucy Elizabeth, a sister for James.

DEATHS PRESGRAVE PAYNE - On 19th November, to Scarlett (née Hopking) and Conrad, a daughter, Clare Scarlett, a sister for Madeline. PRIGH On November 17th at The Portland Hospital to Patricia (use Hardy) and Christophez, a daughter Helen Allson, a sister for Anna and Mark. ROBINSON - On 20th November at Royal Hospital, ChesterGald, to Rachael (née Matthews) and lan, a daughter, Elsa Louise, a cister for William.

VAN AEKEN - On 6th November, to Kristlem (De Wulf) and Chris, a wonderful son, Robin. WATERFIELD - On November 17th 1997, to Joanne (née Pryke) and Tim, a son, Thomas William. MOZENCROFT - On 19th November 1997, at St Mary's, Paddington, to Larins (såe Shers) and Feter, a daughter, Amelle Françoise.

SLACKBURN - On 18th
November pencefully at her
home in Wimbledon after a
long Illness Lindsey
Catherine Faith, beloved
wife of Barry, such loved
wether of Elchard and
lames. Funsaral Service at
Christ Chunch, Wimbledon,
on Thursday 27th November
at 2 pm, followed by
cremation at Putney Vale
Crematorium Donations if
wished to Royal Marsdan
Cancer Fund of F.W. Paine &
Co. 6 Cogmbe Lans, Paynes
Fait, London SW20 SND, tel(0181) 946-1974.

BUTLER - Reien Elizabeth

(0161) 940-1974.

(BUTLER - Heien Elizabeth (Betty) Church Warden and well known Contraito suddenly on 16th November. Puneral Service at St Many's Church, Charibuny, Caon at 3pm on Saturday 29th November. Flowers or donations to St Mary's Church or Cats Protection Laggas of AL Sole & Son, Chipping Norten, Onum.

BANKS - John Alwyn on November 20th 1997 at Oscillation Planes Benefit House Nursing Home Hossiam (formerly of Standberry Hill, Middlesex) peacefully after a long filmers. Beloved husband of the late Millicent Joan Farley, father of Alyson Farley, father of Alyson Farley, father of Alyson four Homes) Breeze of Chicago, grandfather of Dorian and Shoon and hother of Mary Mundy (Molly) and Minty Baylis, Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorism on Friday November 28th at November 18th Alexandral Falley Chicago (Scholl) and Minty Baylis, Funeral Service at Mortlake Crematorism on Friday November 28th at November following a short Onkhill House Nursing Home, Hoesham (formerly of Stmwberry Hill, Middlesen) peacefully after a long ilhness. Beloved husband of the late Millicent Joan Farley, father of Alyson Farley, father of Chicago, gandfather of Dorian and Smoon and hother of Mary Mundy (Molly) and Minty Baylis. Funeral Service at Mortlake Creatacorium on Friday November 28th at 2.30pm. Domaticus may be made in Hew of Elowest to the Civil Service Benevolent Fund or the Parkinsons. Disease Society clo T.H. Sanders & Sons, 28-30 Kew Road, Richmond, Surney Tw9 2NA. Tet 0181 948 1551.

ZNA. Ter. 0181 498 1951.

BUTLEF - Halen Mary Burlin
M.B.E., J.P.; widow of K.R.
Burlin ("Butch") mother of
Martin, peacefully on
November 16th aged 90;
Funeral at South West
Middlesex Crematorium,
Hounelow Road, Hanwurth,
Feitham at 11.30 am
Thursday December 4th;
followed by a reception in
the Hyde Room, York House,
Richmond Road,
Twickenham, Family flowers
only; donations, if desired,
to Shalter or similar charity.

DOUGLAS - On Sunday November 16th, 1997 pascefully at Felix Holms, Eastbourne and Emmedy of Harbestondord and Ashurst, Wing Commender Affred Graham Douglas DFG, aged By years, much loved husband of the late Maria Douglas. His memory will stways be cherished by his children and step children, Xyza, Lisa, Virlan, Einabeth and Andrew, by his grandchildren Ricola, Christopher, Robert, Assunder and Namila and by his great grandchildren Charlotte and Anna. Funeral service at Church of St James, Ashurst, m Sugning on Thursday, November 27th at 12.30pm, Inquiries to Haine & Son, funeral directors, Eastbourne.

The state of the s

FAIRER-SMITH - John, died pescefully on Tuesday 18th November following a short but coursecous fight against illness. A man for all seasons, he touched the lives of so many with his warrath, friendship and generosity. His indominable spirit will never be fongotten. Grautly loved and sadly missed by Gwen, Eobert, Vanessa and all members of his extended family. Fuperal arrangements to be smoothed.

FOLEY-COMER - Resemary. Feacefully on November 20th in the devoted care of the Sisters of St. Teresa's Hesidantial Home. She was loved by all those who had the privilage of knowing her. Funeral Williedean Jewish Cometery 1 o'clock on Sunday Zörd November.

mission - Louis. A precious and loving husband, a scholar and a sentleman. Pased a twip pacefully on November 18th. Mouraed by his devoted wife Leonia, sister Elihor Corian, family and friends. graham - Feter Eric, died pescefully in hospital on 18th Hovember 1997. Beloved husband of Jill. Feneral to be held at Enndalls Park Crematorium, Leatherhead, Friday 28th November at 12.30 pm. Denaticas, if desired, to Princess Alice Hospics of J.W. Chitty & Co., 45 Engages Road, Weylnidge, Serrey KT13 SPE. (01932) 842720.

HA11 1NH. Tel: 01373-452100.

PARTIRIDGE - Margaret (née 20eh Masson) died 20eh Movember in hospital. Widow of Dr., James Partrings, mother of John and William, Funeral privata. RRFY - Helena (née Crifl) died peacefully on November 20th. Beloved wife of Patick, mother of Charita, Jamia, William and Olivez, Puneral St, Thomas Church, West Hill, SW18 1.30 pm Tuesday 25th November. No flowers, Donations if so desired, may be made to "Lourdes Pilgrimage" c/o Christopher Wickenden Funeral Servicez, 71 Greenford Avenue, Landon W7 III.].

W7 11.] ROOMS - On November 19th, Alfred Wallace aged 88. Greatly level husband of the late junice and father of Deirdize and father of Deirdize and the late Carlstopher. Sadly missed by all his relatives especially his nine grandchildren and three greet grand children. Faneral on Thursday November 27th et 81 januar (Church Gerrards Cooss at 12 noon. Flowers or densations, if wished to EVLI may be sent to E C Grimsteed Ltd. Churchfield Lodge, Churchfield 2d, Chalfont 8 Peter. Tel (01753) 891200. SECONS - Margaret Christine on 20th November 1997, aged 79, Baloved wife of Harold, Feneral at 1.30 pm on Tuesday 25th November at St Theims - on - The Bourne Republic Royal

GOLDEN

Street Colchester Been COI 208.

THOMEON - On November 20th 1997 Dr. Colin Thomeon after a brave fight against Mysloma. Dearly loved humband of Maureen dear status of Gary, Michael, Frances and Cattiona, dearstatus of Gary, Michael, Frances and Cattiona, lamis and Sophie. Funeni Service at St Salvator's College Chapel, North Street, St Andrews on Tuesday November 25th at 1.30 afterwards to Western Cemetery, Family flowers only. Domarions if desired to International Mysloma Foundation, 9 Gayfield Square, Edinburgh Hill 3NT.

WOODNETT - Roma, pascellity on 17th Hovember Beloved mother and grandmother who is sorely missed by us all. Thankagiving Service Ham on 28th November at St Mary, The Boltons SWIO. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to The League of Friends, Northwood and Finner Community Hospital' Northwood EMS IDE.

SMFSON - Robert D. Mrs. died 21st November 1997 in Traise Hospital, Eira, Much loved husband of Angala and brother of Miriam. No funeral Body dousted for Medical Rassach, Donations in lieu of flowers to Musicians Sunevolent Fund of Dick Reports 52 Prints

c/o Dick Edwards, 52 Pri Street, Colchester Resex C 2QB.

ANNIVERSARIES COUGHTREE-BURT - G and Marie on 2 Revember 1947 at St Br Bothwell, Congratulat from all. IN MEMORIAM on Tuesday 25th November at St Thomas on The Bourne, Frensham Road, Faraham. Family flowers only but, if desired, domations to Phyllia Tuckwell Hospite, eto Thomas-Legett, Petersitätä Road, Whitshill, Berden, CHYS OF. PRIVATE

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Appaintment

THE RIGHT REV HUGH GOUGH

The Right Rev Hugh Gough, CMG, OBE, Archbishop of Sydney and Primate of Australia. 1959-66, died on November 13 aged 92. He was born on September 19, 1905.

s Bishop of Barking, Hugh Gough was chairman of the orig-L inal Billy Graham crusade committee that organised the first visit to this country of the American evangelist in 1954. At the time, Dr Graham was a distinctly controversial figure, presiding over nightly rallies at Harringay Arena, culminating after two months in a Saturday mass gathering — nearly 100,000-strong — at Wembley Stadium. Gough, naturally, became caught up in the controversial reverberations.

Not all churchmen were happy with either Dr Graham's message or his meth-ods, and in a debate at the Oxford Union Gough lost by one vote to George MacLeod of the Iona Community on a motion deploring the endorsement that he and his friends had given to the Graham crusade. Some of the statements made in the debate, the bishop declared in his own speech, had made him "extremely angry".

For the most part, however, Gough, who liked to take a glass of wine with a meal, lacked the rigid cast of mind that sometimes characterises the extreme Low Church party. Brought up very much in the Evangelical tradition — his a small parish in Carlisle.

father was rector of St Ebbe's, Oxford — his own career within the Church of England was, until its rather sad end, a copybook success.

A chaplain during the war. he went on to be the postwar vicar and rural dean of Islington (and thus chairman of the once renowned Islington clerical conference) before moving to the Chelmsford diocese to become Bishop of Barking and Archdeacon of West Ham in 1948. It was from there, ten years later, that he was plucked by the avowedly Prot-estant archdiocese of Sydney to become its last expatriate English archbishop - a post that subsequently brought him the primacy of Australia.

A striking and imposing

Weymouth College, and from there proceeded to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he took a third in history and a second in geography. He pre-pared for ordination at the London Bible College, and only perhaps broke loose from his background by getting married the year after he was ordained - something that in those days was usually frowned upon. The match, though, with the younger daughter of the 12th Baron Kinnaird, was a thoroughly advantageous one, and from then on the just-ordained priest had no financial worries. He moved easily and comfortably in elevated social circles — becoming chaplain to the High Sheriff of Cumberland when he was still vicar of



His war service did his prospects no harm either. Volunteering as a chaplain in 1939, when he had just been appointed vicar of St Matthew's,

Bayswater, he served in the Western Desert, Tunisia and Italy, being promoted to be a deputy assistant chaplain gen-eral, gaining a mention in

dispatches and being appoint-ed OBE (military division) in 1945. He returned to his Bayswater parish at the end of the war, only to be swiftly preferred to the badly bombed out famous church of St Mary, Islington, where he had served his first curacy.

If there was a hiatus in Gough's upward rise within the C of E, it occurred perhaps in the decade that he spent as Bishop of Barking: in those days Evangelicals were seldom appointed to the diocesan bench. The summons to Australia, therefore, probably came as a relief, and at first all went well — with even the tugboats in Sydney Harbour sounding their whistles to welcome the arrival by liner of the bishop, his wife and their daughter.

In Britain, Gough had won something of a reputation for outspokenness, but the Australians were not necessarily averse to that, and Gough began to get into trouble only when he came out wholeheartedly in favour of Harold Holt's policy of supporting the Americans in Vietnam. He was accused of being "a recruiting sergeant for LBJ", and it was not only the war's opponents who thought he had gone too far.

It was not, however, his robust attitude towards public affairs which in the end proved his undoing. Incredible as it may now seem, this came about in a quite different way - when suspicions were aroused as a result of his having being spotted driving in a car with a woman who

was not his wife. (Religious Australia at the time was a fairly repressed and intolerant place.) Although there was no real

basis for scandal, the whole thing was blown out of proportion and eventually the archbishop was smuggled home on furlough to Britain whence, a month or two later. a personal statement was issued saying that, because of his low blood pressure. his doctors had advised him to undertake no further work for six months, and that he felt that "it would be quite wrong for me to delay my return to Australia for so long". He was,

therefore, resigning.
It was a poignant end to what had promised to be a successful period leading the Australian Church: in the year of his arrival the archbishop had been elected Primate by his episcopal colleagues, and on the eve of his departure he was appointed CMG on the nomination of the Government of Australia.

In 1967, a year after his return to England, Gough became rector of Freshford, a small village a mile or two outside Bath, which two years later was joined with the neighbouring parish of Limp-ley Stoke. He laboured devotedly in this rural setting, but he was not, as is customary with retired bishops, appointed an assistant bishop of the diocese. In 1972, after five years of parish work, he retired to live first in the city of Bath and then in the Wallops in Hampshire. He is survived by his wife and daughter.

ROBERT SIMPSON



Robert Simpson composer and BBC producer, died yesterday aged 76. He was born on March 2, 1921.

ROBERT SIMPSON was one of the most serious and prolific of British composers of the past 50 years. By nature a traditionalist, and writing in traditional forms, he was a searching, wide-ranging composer and thinker whose oeuvre of symphonies and string quartets has yet to be fully assessed and digested.

Although for many years he wrote against the grain and spirit of the times, his resolute insistence on following his own well-defined path finally broke the resistance of those who saw him as merely harking back to the past. He came to be regarded as the most important and visionary symphonist since Shostakovich.

A tough, wiry polemicist, Simpson often fell foul of the musical establishment, especially when it cravenly followed every fashion. His most fierce dispute - which gained him notoriety well beyond his own field -- was his battle in the early 1980s over the running of the Proms. He declared, loud and clear, that they should not be the preserve of one director for more than a year or two. One man's musical food is another's poison, so changing the Proms' administrator would allow for more than one taste

to be represented.

This deeply held belief and attracted a deal of support: but, needless to say, the BBC establishment brushed off the idea and carried on as before. Simpson's complaint was not engendered by resentment, it abstract visions. His contribunust be said, nor any particular neglect of his own music. Arguably his symphonies may not have had their due over the years at the Proms but his works have been performed quite frequently on Radio 3.

Robert Wilfred Levick Simpson was educated at Westminster City School and studied music privately with Herbert Howells from 1941 to 1943. He was awarded his doctorate of music in 1951 on the strength of his First Symphony. After working freelance as a lecturer and a writer, he joined the BBC in 1951. From 1953 he was second in command of the Third Programme's music department and an eager champion of the music of Bruckner and Nielsen.

He resigned from the BBC in 1980, in protest against its cultural policy, so freeing himself to criticise. He published Carl Nielsen, Symphonist in 1952 and a study of Bruckner's symphonies in 1967: these remain standard works on these composers.

Eleven symphonies and 12 string quartets form the backbone of his output. They appeared at regular intervals over 40 years, with the inspi-ration seldom flagging. At the root of his music is a Brucknerian tension wrought from the opposition of conflicting tonalities, while the style of harmony orchestration owed much to his other idol. Nielsen. Yet, despite its patent ancestry, his body of work shows an independent, forceful and logical mind at work.

Only superficially was he conservative. As his fellow composer Robin Holloway once wrote in The Spectator, the relentless rigour with which he pursues the abstracts of construction paradoxically makes him one of the most radical of living composers anywhere".

Typical of his later output was his Ninth Symphony. Retaining the same pulse for its full 50 uninterrupted minutes, it demanded attention and perfectly showed the composer's Nielsen-like logic and Bruckner-like spaciousness - although the influence of Bach too was important.

In his quartets he was always ready to exploit devices to his own ends - the muchlauded Ninth Ouartet, for instance, consists of 32 palindromic variations and a fugue on a theme of Haydn. Yet the grammar and intellectual toughness of Simpson's music were always at the service of tion to the chamber music repertory, and not only string quartets, is enormous, and may come to be regarded as even more important than his

symphonic output.

As he demonstrated in many broadcasts for the BBC. he was a penetrating and enlightening analyst of a great corpus of music. The rather dry delivery could not hide an urgent commitment to his message. He was also an inspirational producer. Music was his whole life, and he wanted others to be blessed with at least some of his own intuitions and joy at its peculiar ability to move the spirit. In 1946 Robert Simpson married Bessie Fraser. She

died in 1981, and a year later he married Angela Musgrave. There were no children of either marriage.

LEONARD MATTHEWS

Leonard Matthews. comics editor, died on November 9 aged 83. He was born on October 10, 1914.

AFTER the war, British comics were transformed by Leonard Matthews. As an editor at the Amalgamated Press in the late 1940s and 1950s, he revitalised their comic papers, updating the tired humour and lacklustre characters. His great passion was for the adventure strip, and during the 1950s he produced a string of varied titles with top-class artwork and stories.

tions at IPC, his responsibilities broadened to include nursery comics and several educational publications. Leonard James Matthews

had always been interested in journalism as a career. One of his early forays into the profession was as editor of the house magazine for William Whitely, the Bayswater store, where he worked for a short time before joining the Amalgamated Press in May 1939 as a sub-editor on the new comic Knockout, a rival to D. C. Thomson's Dandy and Beano. Shortly after his return to the Amalgamated Press at the end of the war, having served in the RAF, he became the editor

of Knockout. "I wanted to break away from the old British comic tradition of Chips and Comic

Cuts," he once said. "I had always loved adventure stories - particularly westerns and swashbuckling tales of Robin Hood and Dick Turpin and the like — and I sensed that everything that had been done in the past with the written word could now be done in pictures. So when I started editing Knockout in 1948, I concentrated on putting

in adventure picture strips." British comics would never be the same again. Out went the outmoded practice of setting blocks of text beneath the pictures and squeezing all the characters in the scene into In the following decade, as every frame. In came a more trectors of juvenile publica- cinematic style, with close-ups and midshots and with the scenes drawn from different angles and perspectives. The adventure picture strip had come of age. Matthews began to bring in long-established book illustrators to draw his

strips, and gave them scripts

worthy of their talents. Matthews was known as the artist's editor. He had an unerring eye for the sort of artist that was right for his kind of adventure picture strip, and began to build a stable of talented artists whose work would dominate the comics under his control for several decades. His artists remained intensely loyal to him even though - or perhaps because - he was a demanding employer. One of the artists he discovered, Geoff

Campion, said that he remem-

TRUSTEE ACTS

PERSONAL COLUMN

FOR SALE

bers confessing to him, when offered a western script, that he couldn't draw horses. Matthews told him to go away and "bloody well learn". Campion hecame one of the finest horse artists in comics. For many, the golden age of the British adventure strip

culminated in the publication in 1951 of the Thriller Comics Library, a small-format, 64page monthly. In the "picturepacked pages" of these comics, old heroes such as Robin Hood and the Three Musketeers rode again for a new generation of young readers. Matthews's enthusiasm inspired his artists and scriptin any comic. Some of the very best adventures were scripted by Matthews himself.

Another of Matthews's successful adventure strip comics during the 1950s was the Sun, companion paper to Knockout and noted for its historical strips such as "The Happy Hussar", the long complete weekly adventures of Billy the Kid (transformed by Matthews into a Zorro-style masked avenger) and the flying ace Battler Britton.

In 1954, Matthews launched Jack and Jill, a new-style nursery comic. He applied the following principles: "Every story must make sense, every story must have a happy ending; no stories with a revenge motive, nothing to frighten the child." The success of Jack and Jill resulted



in the launch of two companion papers, Playhour and Harold Hare's Own Paper.

Further successful titles followed, including Buster, one of the longest-running comics of recent years, Top Spot, a weekly for late teenage boys, and Princess, planned and promoted as "a paper just like mummy's". In 1961 Matthews was appointed director of juvenile publications at IPC. which had by then taken over the Amalgamated Press. In the same year, he launched Look and Learn, which ran for more than 20 years. One of his few failures during this period was Ranger, a brave attempt at producing a boys' magazine amalgamating fact. fiction and adventure strip.

Despite its quality, it lasted for

only 40 issues.



After retiring from IPC. Matthews started Martpress, producing such titles as Once Upon a Time, Disneyland, Pixie and Rupert Weekly for a variety of publishers. Matthews was at home with all types of juvenile publications

and produced a seemingly endless stream of books and annuals, comics and magazines. He was working on several new projects only two months before his death. He is survived by his wife, Barbara. and their son and daughter.

MILESTONES



Lady Tryon, dress designer, died on Novem-ber 15 aged 49. She was born on January 3, 1948. Born Dale Elizabeth Harper

in Melbourne, Australia, Kanga — as she was nicknamed by the Prince of Wales - faced more than her share of suffering with resolute courage. From birth she suffered from spina bifida. and she did not walk until she was nine. In London in the early 1970s she was introduced by Prince Charles to Anthony Tryon, a banker almost ten years her senior. and they were married at the Chapel Royal. St James's Palace in 1973. As well as a mother of four and an accomplished hostess, she became a successful fashion designer, using £2,000 of her savings to open a dress shop, Kanga, in Beauchamp Place in 1980, eventually achieving a turnover above £1 million a year. She also raised money successfully for charities. But illhealth blighted her last years, and in 1996. after many serious operations, a fall from an upper window left her with a broken back and fractured skull. Obituary published on November 17.

Georges Marchais, Secretary-General of the French Communist Party, 1972-94, died on November 16 aged 77. He was born on June 7, 1920.

A bluff proletarian with an

almost comical pugnacity,

Georges Marchais had neither intellectual gifts nor statesmanlike vision. After a distinctly unheroic war, when he was apparently on the wrong side of the great divide in occupied France, he joined the Communist Party at 27 and rose to be organising secretary by 1961. As Secretary-General he at first loosened the party's ties

with Moscow and moved it towards the Socialists, believing in a form of "Euro-

communism". But in 1977 he broke his alliance with the Socialists. This did not stip him in 1981 from accepting François Mitterrand's offer of some Communist posts in government but the party withdrew to purist isolation in 1984. When communism in Eastern Europe collapsed in 1989-90, he was left blus-

tering in oblivion. Obituary published on November 17.

Stefan Lorant, photojournalist, died on November 14 aged 96. He was born on February 22, 1901.

A Hungarian Jew who moved to Berlin in 1920, Stefan Lorant was imprisoned in 1933 and moved to England the following year as a fervent anti-Nazi. His book I Was Hitler's Prisoner was to sell almost half a million copies. In 1937 he launched the pocket magazine Lilliput, which with its original subject matter, humour, and lively pictures achieved instant popularity. At a time when news photographers were content to present official likenesses and formal records, Lorant insisted that they get inside the

occasion and capture the feel of events. In 1938, he launched another magazine. Picture Post, again providing a winning formula, but he did not stay long as editor. Having been denied British nationality he moved to America in 1940.

Obituary published on November 18.

Air Commandant Dame Jean Conan Doyle, DBE, Director of the Women's Royal Air Force, 1963-66, and daughter of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, died on November 19 aged 84. She was born on December 21, 1912.

The product of Sir Arthur's second marriage, Jean Conan Doyle remembered sitting in a big red leather chair next to the fireplace, listening to the sound of her father's nib rushing with hardly a pause across page after page. She was 17 when he died. She



joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service in 1938. After the war she became head of the WRAF. It was, however, as the doughty champion of her father's good name and American copyrights, after the death of her brother in 1971, that she became best known to the public.

Obituary published on November 19.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997 **EQUITY PRICES** Shares close at best of the day ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on 417'2 46': 950 581 575 314 222': 50 1478's £1,000 to be won the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and Check the numbers on your Portfolio card and find your eight stocks in the Portfolio price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices. Pates 156 (p) +/- % P. page, Ignore fractions, ie enter 16½ as 16 (the symbol ... means no change). After listing the price changes of your eight shares, add or subtract as appropriate to find your total 62 which can be plus or minus. If your overall total matches exactly the points required for the daily dividend you win or share the £1,000 daily prize. OIL & GAS ENGINEERING, VEHICLES BREWERIES, PUBS & REST Ret Gen Engln'ing Bld & Cons 34 164 22 244 31 . 10 180 37 155 42 137 DAILY DIVIDEND 24 110 27 175 PHARMACEUTICALS Claims required for +44 2107; - 175 09 474 5; 271', 27 170 455 25 177 707; + 10 1715 - 1 41 163 24 45 93 250 + 4 32 270 3635 - ', 23 21,4 7239 + + 1366 + + 1366 + + 1367 + + 1367 + + 1367 + + 1367 + + 1367 + 1568 + + 1568 + + 1568 + 1568 + + 1568 + 156 Weekly Dividend HOUSEHOLD GOODS 90 113
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BUSINESS

SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Alert hits Johnson Fry shares

By RICHARD MILES

SHARES in Johnson Fry Holdings, the fund man-ager, dived by 27 per cent yesterday after the company warned investors to expect a substantial loss

Rebecca Thomas, managing director, said the loss before exceptional items would be £2 million after the closure of the financial products division and ten redundancies.

But Ms Thomas, ap-pointed in September, said a large exceptional gain of £3.9 million from the sale of its property division earlier in the year would ensure the firm "published a profit for the year".

in the absence of unforeseen circumstances". Johnson Fry said it would pay an unchanged final dividend of 2p on reporting its year-end results in late March. The shares closed 31.5p lower at 85p

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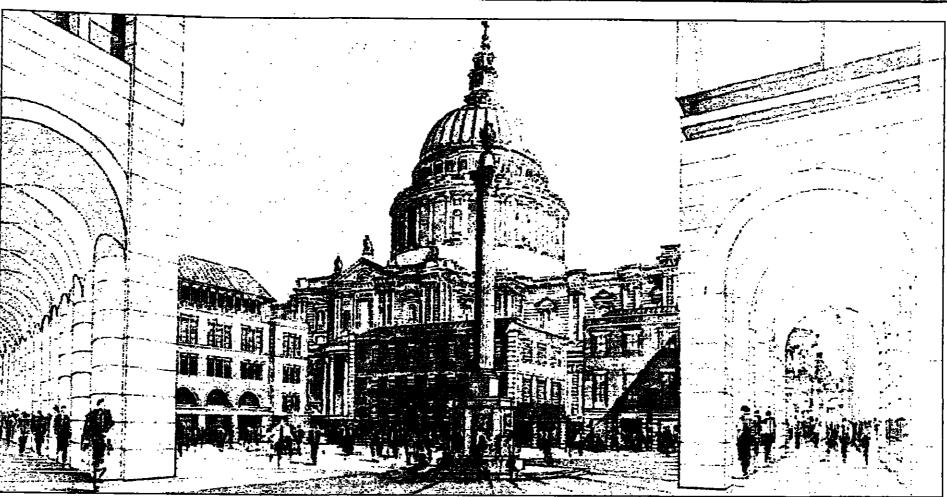
Since joining the com-pany 18 months ago, Ms Thomas has sought to turn Johnson Fry from an advisory and trading business into a fund manager focused on the retail investor. In that time, funds under management have almost trebled from £330 million to £919 million.

As part of the conversion to fund manager, the insurance and independent financial advice businesses were sold off in mid-1996, followed by the disposal of Johnson Fry Housing, its property arm. early this year.

"It is not ple have do this sort of thing, have to deal with the historic business of old Johnson Fry. The financial products division was highly geared to volumes of new sales."

Johnson Fry, 35 per cent owned by directors and the 150 staff, insisted yesterday that it was determined to remain independent, in spite of reports last month that it was up for

Tempus, page 31



Liberty Life sights set on FTSE listing

By Marianne Curphey, insurance correspondent

LIBERTY LIFE Association may be ready to abandon South Africa in favour of a primary sharelisting in London and membership of the FTSE 100 share index.

The Johannesburg-listed company chaired by Donald Gordon, the insurance mag-nate, yesterday announced a radical restructuring aimed at creating an international financial services company. Mr Gordon, 58, who with

Abbey Life in 1962, said that he believed the UK and America were good bases from which to turn Liberty Life into an international financial services company. At the end of June the group had total shareholders' funds of more than £1.5 billion and total assets of £4.4 billion. It controis Capital Shopping Centres, owner of the Thurrock

and Lakeside retail complexes. Mr Gordon said he was looking for acquisitions in the

Lord Prior, a Cabinet minis-

ter in the Thatcher Govern-

ment, is due to retire in March.

Turning round GEC after years

of underperformance is regarded as one of the toughest jobs in

British industry. Sir Roger has little to prove

at Smiths, with arguably the

best long-term record in the

UK engineering sector. Pre-tax profits have grown from £25 million to £192 million since he

took over as managing director

plied almost 20 times.

US and had considered bidding for Mercury Asset Man-UK and US." agement in the UK, now The proposed restructuring, subject to an agreed £3.1

billion offer from Merrill Lynch. "MAM would have been good for us but Merrill Lynch could afford to pay over the odds for it." He emphasised that the restructuring proposals were. A year ago Mr Gordon still being considered and a announced ambitious plans to

formal decision had yet to be reached. He said that life companies in the UK expensive because the UK was currently "flavour of the Analysts said Liberty Life

would be taken more seriously as a global company if it relocated to the UK. Mr Gordon said that he had no intention of leaving South Africa to live permanently in this country.

He described the South African life assurance market as "very competitive" and added: "The cost ratios there are much lower than in the

announced yesterday, would simplify the group's complicated management and ownership structure, he said. There are a number of partowned subsidiary business that needed streamlining.

compete with the biggest names in the pensions indusov creating a mator nev life insurance company. In a joint venture with the British Telecom Pension Scheme, Liberty was able to set up Hermes Liberty International Pensions, which specialises in group personal pensions.

Mr Gordon said expanding

the company to make it an international player was his greatest ambition. "I would dearly love to achieve that before I stop working." he said. "I am not doing it for the money any more. I am doing it

for fun. It is great fun negotiating deals when you are not being forced into doing them." Mr Gordon described his

role as "that of an elder statesman and strategic planner". His 40 years' experience in life insurance have made him an almost legendary figure in the industry. The restructuring is intended to cut out management layers and reduce potential conflicts of interest between controlling and give Liberty Life greater

access to capital markets. The plans for Liberty Life include increasing the company's involvement in the Black Economic Empowerment project, a South African scheme set up to help companies run by black workers. Liberty Life said that the plans would need regulatory approval and their success would depend on the state of equity and financial markets

Mitsubishi has new designs on **Paternoster**

By CARL MORTISHED

A JAPANESE property developer stepped gingerly into a British minefield yesterday with new proposals for the redevelopment of Paternoster Square, the ugly 1960s office development adjacent to St Paul's Cathedral.

Mitsubishi Estate Company is hoping that its masterplan will receive the green light from planners at the Corporation of London, permitting the demolition of the site and the erection of six new buildings designed by different archiects, with a value on comp tion of about £400 million.

The scheme, designed by Sir William Whitfield, treads a narrow path, seeking to satisfy modernists and appease traditionalists, while making money for the developers. Chief among the traditionalists is the Prince of Wales, who famously condemned an earlier modernist redevelopment plan as "deeply depressing". A later neo-classical scheme favoured by the Prince proved to

be financially unworkable.

Sir William's masterplan envisages the demolition of the raised piazza and walkways, lowering the site to ground level, thereby improving both views of the cathedral and pedestrian access. Sir William said that the failure of William Holford's 1960s development was the attempt to impose a single architectural concept on a sensitive site, ignoring the needs of users. By using different architects, the scheme more reflects the higgledy-piggledy character of the City before the

arrivai oi 1960s brutalism. The new development will comprise 750,000 sq ft of offices. The square will be flanked with shops, while vehicle access is restricted to an underground gyratory that gave Sir William the inspiration for his masterstroke: in the middle he proposes a replica of an Inigo Jones Corinthian column that once graced the portico of St Paul's. Its plinth conceals a ventilation shaft.

Commentary, page 29

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET

STERLING

NORTH SEA OIL Brent 15-day (Feb) \$18.80 (\$18.65) GOLD

ondon close \$304.95 (\$303.55)

Primark eyes Dow Jones unit

By RAYMOND SNODDY MEDIA EDITOR

PRIMARK, the information group that owns Datastream/ICV, has emerged as a potential bidder for the troubled Dow Jones Markets, the financial information division of Dow Jones.

The business, which is shortly expected to be formally offered for sale, could be worth about \$500 million (£294 million).

Joe Kasputys, Primark chairman, said yesterday he would have "a very serious look" at Dow Jones Markets. Primark, whose main strength is in information on equities, would be interested because it would extend its reach, particularly into the foreign exchange markets.

Other potential purchasers could include Bloomberg and

Hurn ready to join GEC as chairman

By PAUL DURMAN

tems to defence and aerospace SIR Roger Hurn, tipped to succeed Lord Prior as chairman of

GEC next year, may be confirmed in the job on Tuesday. Sir Roger, 59, is expected to make his plans known at the annual meeting of Smiths Industries, the engineering group of which he has been chairman since 1991, having originally joined the group in 1958.

Although he has increasingly taken a diminished role at Smiths since last year's ap-pointment of Keith Butler-Wheelhouse as chief executive. Sir Roger accepts he could not remain chairman and take on the top job at GEC. Both groups have substantial businesses supplying electronic sys-

Coal industry forecasts hit **RJB** price

SHARES in RJB Mining lost 5 per cent of their value with more than 1.4 million changing hands after The Times disclosed gloomy government forecasts for the future of coal (Christine Buckley writes).

Next week John Battle, the Energy Minister, will come under increased pressure to make a commitment to the coal industry. Paddy Tîpping, Labour MP for Sherwood, will lead a debate urging govern-ment action to stop the building of gas-fired power stations and to put money into clean-

coal technology.

Mr Battle and Michael Meain 1978. The value of the company's shares has multicher, Environment Minister, will face lobbying from the in-

IBM gives £56m in options to Gerstner

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

IBM has given Lou Gerstner, its executive chairman and architect of its recovery, \$95 million (£56 million) of share options to persuade him to stay for five more years. He has already accumulated options worth a similar amount since he arrived in 1993.

The 55-year-old former investment banker will also continue to receive annual performance-related share op-

The company yesterday defended the pay package, which is unusually high even by US standards, by saying that Mr Gerstner had been the main dustry at a meeting next week.

Commentary, page 29 driver behind the revival of the US's seventh-largest company. However, shareholders may have mixed feelings. It had been feared that IBM's share price would fall if Mr Gerstner sold his stake and

left the company. While Mr Gerstner's skills are widely acknowledged, he has recently been criticised for favouring share buybacks over acquisitions. He said yesterday that he was still looking for takeover targets.

IBM announced a largescale buyback programme during last month's stock market plunge. It was credited with kickstarting a buying spree that led to the biggest daily rise in the Dow Jones industrial average.

AWEEK IN THE CITY

t was a week in which the City's women high-flyers put on a speciacular show of force — not always by choice. Ann Iverson called it a day at Laura Ashley. while Merrill Lynch made an agreed £3.1 billion takeover bid for Mercury Asset Management (MAM), creating up to 300 instant City millionaires. British Airways unveiled plans for a low-cost, no-frills European airline,

flying from Stansted. Monday saw the FTSE 100 index soar 150 points, fast closing again, on the mystical 5,000 barrier. Thursday saw Wall Street leap 101. The Government gave the thumbs up to P&O's merger with Stena Line, creating a streamlined cross-Channel ferry operator, while London & Continental Railways confirmed that its high-speed Channel Tunnel link would run all the way to St Pancras station in North London. It had been feared that the line might fizzle out near the M25.

The sudden forced departure of a chief executive is routine enough — except when the company is Laura Ashley, brimming with twee Englishness, and the victim is a tough-talking American who has posed in leather for Vogue. Ann Iverson, who worked wonders at Mothercare in the early Nineties proved unable to conjure up the same magic with chintz. She leaves under a cloud, but wealthier, col-

lecting £450,000 in compen-

in pay and bonuses. Another feisty American,

Barbara Cassani, was named chief executive-designate of BA's new peanutclass airline, tentatively dubbed Operation Blue Sky.

The move throws down the gauntlet to other no-frills operators such as Debonair. Ryanair and Easylet — and spells good news for consumers. BA also announced a big cut in commission paid to travel agents, triggering an irate response.

Merrill's punt for MAM will add to the considerable fortune of Carol Galley, the most powerful woman in UK fund management, who is on course to collect £10 million from the deal. Similar wind-

sation on top of £2.2 million falls await her top colleagues - Hugh Stevenson and Stephen Zimmerman.

Observers were quick to question the fate of other independent City fund managers; chiefly Schroders, Perpetual and M&G. Margaret Beckett, the Pres-

ident of the Board of Trade, heaped fresh woes on Sears, owner of Selfridge's, by blocking the proposed £365 million sale of Freemans, its mail order business, to Littlewoods. Shares in Safeway suffered their sharpest

one-day drop — falling 16 per cent to 330p on Wednesday on a warning that fierce competition, allied to supply problems, would wipe out profits growth this year. Ros Wright, director of the

Serious Fraud Office, toasted success in six out of six Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) trials, as Abdul Chiragh, a South London accountant, was sentenced at the Central Crimi-

years' imprisonment for fraud and false accounting. Helen Liddell, the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, castigated the pensions industry over mis-selling.

nal Court to five-and-a-half

So who shares the booby prize with Ann Iverson? Enter Nicola "Superwoman" Horlick, who would have done fine had she stuck at her old job ... with Mercury Asset Management. That's

JON ASHWORTH

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Dialog at 'advanced stage' in talks over £33m sale

By Fraser Nelson

DIALOG Corporation, the online information company formed when Maid and Knight-Ridder Information merged, is poised to sell its document delivery and library divisions for about £33 million.

The company, now the largest player in the computerised market research field, said it was in advanced stages of talks with potential bidders and would complete an auction to the highest in the new

Together, Knight-Ridder's library and document delivery divisions have annual sales of \$37 million (E22 million). Analysts said that the level of interest in both divisions should allow Dan Wagner, the chief executive, to sell them for at least 1.5 times sales, or \$55.5 million (£33 million) — some £10 million above initial

expectations. The company said yesterday that it had completed its expected staff-cutting programme, shedding 334 jobs across its international offices, slightly above September's forecasts of 300 job losses. It has also closed about 20 of the 57 offices that came into the

enlarged group.

Mr Wagner said the company was well within the £10 million set aside for the closures, which will leave Dialog with 1,060 staff in 20 countries while moving all its databases to a mainframe computer in California.

Shares of Dialog, which were relisted at 188p last Friday, against Maid's suspension price of 215p. gained 212p to 180p yesterday.



Don Carty, president of AA, left, and Robery Ayling, chief executive of BA, may yet seal their alliance

New hope for BA in **US link**

صِكَدًا من رالامنال

BRITISH Airways has been given fresh hope that its troubled plans for an alliance with American Airlines could yet be realised (Oliver August writes). The US congressional aviation committee has

backed a compromise formula that would allow the alliance if it were phased in over several years along with land-ing slots at Heathrow for competitor airlines.

The alliance had been opposed by the European Commission and competitors, which had demanded more Heathrow landing slots than BA was willing to hand over. William Lipinski, a Democratic Congressman for Illinois, has written to regulators in Europe and the US to urge them to hold talks on the new compromise formula. Neither BA nor AA would comment the compromise plan yesterday.

Ford unions to meet over two-year offer

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

UNION officials at Ford car plants throughout the country are to be consulted over the next week on whether to accept a "final" pay offer worth at least 8.75 per cent over two years. The offer, tabled after two days of talks, was described as "disappointing" by the chief union negotiator yesterday. Tony Woodley, national officer of the Transport and General Workers Union, said the proposed deal would not redress the "drift" that Ford workers had suffered in their pay compared with other case comparison. with other car companies. We are disappointed with the offer, which we believe is at best only average compared to recent settlements," said Mr Woodley. "Ford workers deserve a better deal because of the productivity gains they have

made in recent years." Shop stewards at Ford plants across Britain will be consulted over the next week on whether the offer should be accepted. National union leaders will meet again in early December to decide their next move. Under the offer, the pay of Ford workers would increase by 4.5 per cent in year one, followed by a rise of 4.25 per cent or the rate of inflation plus 0.25 per cent, whichever is greater, in year two. Ford also offered an extra day's holiday from year two, to 25 days, and improvements on pensions.

Lehman sells off units

LEHMAN BROTHERS, the Wall Street investment bank, will sell its private client businesses in London, Hong Kong and Singapore to Prudential Securities of the US for an undisclosed sum. The firm is to focus on higher-margin institutional business, including investment banking, the company said. The sale affects around 20 people in London. Lehman will retain its GLG Partners division in London, which manages assets for institutions and wealthy individ-uals. Its other private client businesses will not be sold.

TRW in \$1bn US deal

TRW, the automotive and space technology company, has agreed to buy BDM International, which provides systems integration and computer services to government and commercial customers, in a deal valued at about \$1 billion (£580 million). The offer for the Virginia company is worth \$29.50 per share. TRW will launch a cash tender offer within the next five business days for BDM. It added that Carlyle Group, the investment firm, and affiliates, which own about 26 per cent of BDM, had agreed to tender their shares at the same price.

Financial services 'biased'

THE financial services industry is still failing to provide fully unbiased advice, according to a report from the European Policy Forum research institute. Insurance Regulation in the United Kingdom, whose sponsors include Guardian, Royal & Sun Alliance and PPP, calls on the new Financial Services Authority to foster an ethical approach that produces consumer-friendy products. It also says there is a need for greater disclosure about products. The report urges the FSA to deliver its promise to allow the industry to self-regulate.

Laidlaw increases bid

LAIDLAW ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, the US waste management company, has increased its hostile takeover bid for Safety-Kleen to \$2.1 billion (£1.3 billion). The offer came just hours after Safety-Kleen agreed to be bought by Philip Services of Canada and two investment partners for \$1.9 billion. The contest for Safety-Kleen comes amid consolidation in North America's waste management industry. "We are advising Safety-Kleen shareholders to sit tight," said Tom Burnett, at Merger Insight, an institutional reserve service. (Bloomberg)

Reflec losses mount

SHARES in Reflec fell 21p to 32¹2p yesterday after the manufacturer of reflective clothing and coated products reported a rise in first-half losses and said sales in the second half were unlikely to meet expectations. Losses were £264,000 before tax, compared with a £214,000 loss previously, despite a rise in sales to £390,000 from £80,000. Losses were 3.14p a share (3.09p loss) and there is again no interim dividend. The shares, which trade on the Alternative Investment Market. peaked at 1231 p earlier this year.

DCS expands network

DCS GROUP said that it had expanded its European automotive network via the acquisition of two specialist suppliers in Germany. Switzerland and Austria. The net consideration is £2.9 million. DCS said the acquisition represented an important step towards its strategic goal of achieving a leading market position in all leading European markets for automotive systems. Robin Lodge, executive chairman, said the acquisitions are expected to enhance earnings. The shares rose 17p to 26212p.

Chesterfield purchase

CHESTERFIELD PROPERTIES, whose chief executive is Robert Maxted, has acquired the Pallion retail park in Sunderland for £6.8 million. The park, which was developed four years ago, produces an annual rental income of £540,000, equivalent to £7.10 per sq ft. Tenants include Iceland, Kwiksave, ScottishPower and Poundstretcher. Rent reviews on the park begin in September next year and Chesterfield estimates the current rental value to be £9 per sq ft.

E-mail key to Microsoft case

FROM OLIVER AUGUST

IN NEW YORK

AN INTERNAL memo from a Microsoft executive sent by electronic mail forms the key plank of the US Justice Department's antitrust case against the software house.

Microsoft stands accused of using its existing monopoly in the personal computer software market to gain dominance illegally in the growing

Janet Reno, the US Attorney General, yesterday stepped up her attack on Microsoft's bundling of its Windows 95 package with the Internet Explorer

market for Internet software.

A \$1 million-a-day fine could be imposed as early as next month after the filing of a 30-page charge sheet in Washington. The sheet includes the incriminating e-mail from James Allchin, a senior vicepresident. Mr Allchin wrote on December 20 last year: "The current path is simply to copy everything Netscape [Microsoft's main competitor]

does. My conclusion is we must leverage Windows more." He said that not bundling the two products means "losing our biggest advantage - Windows' market share". He encouraged other execuintegrated solution".

Previously, Microsoft had argued that it had always intended Windows and Internet Explorer to be a

single product.
The Justice Department now contends that the bundling was started this year. It said Microsoft was breaching a 1995 court-enforced agreement that narrowly restricts its software marketing. A number of computer manufacturers have claimed Microsoft

Direct Line advert halted

is forcing them to install Internet Explorer along with Windows to drive out Netscape's software.

The Justice Department said that the software bundling "has nothing to do with updating Microsoft's operating system. Microsoft's Internet Explorer was developed as - and in every way continues to be - a seperate product from Microsoft's Windows 95 operating system."

AA to run satellite service

BECOMING

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A POWERFUL consortium of British companies is joining the assault on the multibillion-pound market for in-car satellite technology (Kevin Eason

Global Telematics, a joint venture between European Telecom and Racal. yesterday announced that the AA will run its new vehicle tracking, navigation and information system with Vodafone as the mobile telephone

carrier. The Carphone Warehouse, one of Britain's most successful mobile phone sales operations, is also being enlisted along with Lucas Kienzle.

Target sales are £50 million-a-year by the turn of the century, mainly achieved through after-market fitting of the sophisticated equipment to fleetowned vehicles. Discussions with leading carmakers, such as Nissan, have started for assembly line installations.

THE Independent Television Commis-

sion has suspended the transmission of an advertisement by Direct Line after rival insurers complained.

Broadcasters have been told not to show the advert while the ITC investigates complaints that it is misleading. The ITC said it received seven complaints accusing the telephone insurer of showing traditional insurance brokers in a damaging way. Among those

to complain was Norwich Union, which accused Direct Line of being "intentionally and damagingly mis-leading in its portrayal of brokers".

John Kitson, Norwich Union mar-keting manager, said: "We are delight-ed with the ITC suspension and it is a real victory for the insurance broker and Norwich Union. We believe Direct Line has intentionally tried to portray brokers from the past."

Regulator ER CONSIDERE warns banks

BANKING CORRESPONDENT

HOWARD DAVIES, chairman of the Financial Services Authority, the new superregulator, gave warning yesterday that economic and monetary union would push banks into far-flung markets

where they have no expertise. Mr Davies told a London conference that it was "a matter of some concern" how banks intended to compensate for the loss of their intra-EU foreign exchange business and dimin-ishing profitability in their core markets.

A number of banks have told regulators that they plan to build up their exchange trading in Eastern European and other emerging markets. There must be serious doubts about the expertise of some of these banks in those markets, and about the extent to which there is room for new competitors in what remains a small and specialised sector," said Mr Davies.

While EMU posed little or no risk to London as an international financial centre, Mr Davies said it would accelerate consolidation in an industry already characterised by overcapacity.

Mortgage rate fears discounted

By Clare Stewart

CONCERNS that a large number of homeowners are likely to be hit hard by sharply higher home loan payments when their fixedrate mortgage deals run out next year have been discounted by the Council of Mortgage Lenders.
There have been worries

that, after the run of rises in interest rates, mortgage payers are set for a payments shock once fixed-rate schemes end and they then start paying at a higher variable rate. Fionnuala Earley, senior

economist at CML, says in the group's newsletter that, typically, fixed-rate loans are taken out on a short-term basis, of two to five years. CML figures also show that, of the 13 per cent of mortgages that are fixed-rate loans, nearly half will mature next year. But, says the CML, a num-

ber of factors will cushion the impact of this rise. These include the increase in average earnings over the period of the fixed-rate loan.

The CML expects that more homeowners facing higher payments may choose to switch to another lender with more favourable rates.

oltseeks nom for

London

growth

Martin Currie cancels launch

By Gavin Lumsden

burgh fund manager, has pulled the launch of a new split capital investment trust after shareholders in General Consolidated, another split trust, turned it down as a rollover vehicle this week.

Martin Currie assumed the management of the £146 million General Consolidated trust (GCIT) last year after its acquisition of Moorgate Fund Managers. Its new trust, Martin Currie High Income, had artracted pledges from holders of £40 million of GCIT shares. However, a revolt by GCIT income shareholders, led by Geared Income, a rival split trust that has tabled its own offer, and Gartmore Investment Trust Management, blocked the move, raising speculation that the two had done a deal.

Geared Income, a £76 million fund, invests solely in the shares of split capital trusts. Gartmore is also seeking to

MARTIN CURRIE, the Edin- launch a new split trust to succeed the £560 million Scottish National Trust that it manages. It increased its stake to 8 per cent in General Consolidated a few weeks ago. However, Tony Reid, investment director of Broker Financial Services, which manages Geared Income, denied any deal and said the rejection by income shareholders had been

> unavailable for comment. Sandy Dudgeon, director of Martin Currie, said: "Of course we are disappointed that a small number of GCIT income shareholders blocked the scheme recommended by the GCIT board." He said the board could still propose an alternative. Mr Reid said the board

overwhelming. Gartmore was

wanted to turn General Consolidated into a unit trust. However, he admitted that Geared Income's bid had yet to receive tax clearance from the Inland Revenue.

TOURIST-RATES. THE SUNDAY TIMES **FIRST AMONG EQUALS** Immaculately turned

Bank Selection 52,34 20,109 58,09 58

out, with a cool charm that capitivates clients. Carol Galley is a formidable force in corporate Britain How the Americans agreed to pay

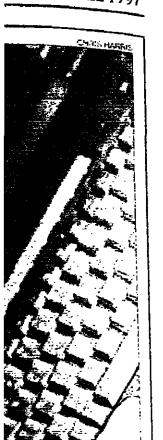
£3.1 billion for Mercury Asset Management, making Galley the first woman to sit on Merrill Lynch's executive board. Business Focus — The Sunday Times, tomorrow

CITY BALLET OF LONDON

Following its successful tour of its new production of 'Sleeping Following its successful tour of its new production of 'Sleeping Beauty' City Ballet of London (Royal Patron HRH The Duke of York: Charity No: 1061536) is seeking sponsorship for a new programme of one-act neo-classical ballets, its education programme and its young choreographers workshop in 1998. Please reply in full

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s Army

c death

arlier this month Jonathan Guinness published Requiem for a Family

Business. His publishers proclaimed that the book would shed light "on one of the most remarkable financial scandals to face the City of London". The author, they said, would present "an insider's view of that

scandal". As is so often the case, the book fails to live up to the blurb. Jonathan Guinness, aka Lord Moyne, a non-executive director of the family company for 27 years, goes into some detail about his idiosyncratic contributions to board meetings, but his insight into what went on when the company, led by Ernest Saunders, decided it would take control of Distillers seems to be informed as much by newspaper comment as by inside

Sadly, Lord Moyne is not available to give the interviews that his publishers promised and which might have put some colourful flesh on the bones of his tale. He is somewhat preoccupied at the moment with trying to explain his involvement with a Scandinavian outfit whose funds have gone astray, causing some alarm to the Swedish authorities. With delicious irony, the company is called Trustor.

But while his Requiem may not excite the masses, we are about to see publication of what promises to be a rollicking good read on the same subject. David

Donaldson, QC, and Ian Glen-

dinning Watt were the two inspectors appointed by the Department of Trade and Industry to unravel the Guinness affair. No author likes to labour in vain and at last their efforts are to see the light. The President of the Board of Trade has decreed that the public should be able to read the results of the inspectors' inquiries and on Thursday they will go on sale at Her Majesty's Stationery Office. It may be that what appears will be a somewhat edited version of the inspectors original, but it still promises to provide plenty of material for bar-room gossip around the Square Mile. For some, it will revive old memories of how the City used to function, for Guinness was only an exag-gerated version of what had gone

up to Chicago, currently packing them in at the Adelphi. Because of its historic nature the Guinness takeover of Distillers was in 1986 - the only careers that it is likely to affect are those of the two inspectors, now due their moment of fame. But the timing of its publica-

before. For more recent recruits

to the City, it will introduce a cast

of characters worthy of a West End musical, perhaps a follow-

→ A tale of two Cities



COMMENTARY by our City Editor

tion is an extraordinary coincidence. It comes in the week in which both Grand Metropolitan and Guinness hold the extraordinary general meetings that will ratify their merger. Shareholders will also have to vote to approve the change to the ghastly name, Diageo. Some may feel that, despite the imagery of the fam-ous stout, the chance to shrug off a name which has become synonymous with City sharp practice should be welcomed.

Battle fighting the wrong coal battle

ohn Battle, the Energy Minister, has made increasingly plain his irritation with Richard Budge, chief of the eponymous RJB.

When pressed on the clear crisis looming in the coal industry, the aggressively defen-sive Mr Battle has responded with remarks such as "the pres-

sure is on Mr Budge, quite frankly". The Minister has said that he cannot ask the electricity generators, with whom RJB is negotiating new contracts, "to subsidise Mr Budge".

These may be the comments of

one blunt Yorkshireman on another but they do not amount to a ministerial response.

The Government is faced with

an imminent crisis that threatens the entire coal industry. Mr Battle seems interested only in focusing the debate on Mr Budge and the way that he conducts his This is to ignore the real issues,

which go far beyond one com-pany. The Labour Government has failed to deliver an energy policy despite endlessly trotting out the pledge to make energy "diverse, secure and sustain-able". In its short time in power, it has hastened the dash for gas in electricity generation, which will lead to heavy dependency on imported gas from politically

unstable countries. It has consigned coal purely to the workings of the market place where British-produced stocks have to fight against government-subsidised imports from Germany.

Mr Battle's department has forecast a halving of jobs in mining while critical negotia-tions continue. He behaves as if energy is out of his hands, dependent on the vagaries of the market and on the negotiating abilities of one man.

Yet the Government should be more than a mere spectator at the late of an industry. Were it so inclined, it could take action to ensure a future for the coal industry and so deliver the diversity of energy it is so fond of talking about. It could halt the new building of gas-fired power stations or offer an incentive for power stations that have clean-ing equipment for coal. It could invest in clean-coal technology or seek to relax its onerous environmental commitments.

If it does none of these things, we will see the once unthinkable situation of a Labour government presiding over the ultimate death of the mining industry. Even for a party that has modernised to the extent that

new Labour has, it is not a politically palatable prospect. The pressure is not only on Mr Budge; it is also on Mr Battle.

Pragmatic solution

s with house prices, everyone has a view about architecture. Mitsubishi, the Japanese property developer with the doubtful privilege of promoting the latest Paternoster Square redevelopment, is keep-ing its head down. This is wise given the torrent of abuse from people in high places that was

heaped on previous schemes. Yesterday, Mitsubishi stood behind its adviser, Schroders, and the brains behind the new proposal, Sir William Whitfield. The author of the masterplan braved torrents from the heavens as he took interested parties on a tour through the rain-stained concrete slabs of the square near St Paul's Cathedral. He was only

partially protected by an umbrella held by a young lady from

It is to be hoped that this scheme draws fewer brickbats because it is exactly what is required. To the visitor, London looks a bit of a mess compared with the grand boulevards and set-pieces of Paris and the powerplay of New York towers. But in that confusion of styles and streets lies the City's charm and personality, where turning a corner can reveal a splendid view. Sir William has recognised this and produced a plan that is in essence very much a com-promise and therefore very

Instead of one architect, we have many. Purists will regret the lack of consistency, but they forget that the City of London is a land of pragmatists where a successful deal is one that works for everyone.

An inspector calls

NIKOLAI GOGOL'S play. The Government Inspector, has entertained theatre audiences around the world. But in his native Russia the jokes sound a little thin. Apparently, the average Moscow shopkeeper is visited by 19 government inspectors a year. Small wonder, says The Economist's The World in 1998, that Russia's underground economy is now worth more than its official economy. That's

Colt seeks £200m for growth in London

COLT TELECOM, the European telecoms operator that specialises in providing highquality services to businesses and governments, is seeking to raise £200 million through an equity offering and a debt

The company said the money would be used for a potential fourfold expansion of its London operations, which currently run from Canary.
Wharf to the City and the West End. It would also be used to establish new services in Berlin, Zurich, Brussels and Mi-Colt already has tions in Frankfurt.

Hamburg, Munich and Paris. The move was greeted with enthusiasm by the City, with Colt's shares jumping 132p to 598 2 p yesterday, having more than doubled in value in four months. Confidence in the company is strong even though it has still not made a profit, with last year's pre-tax losses standing at £11 million, on turnover of just £34 million. However, earlier this month

Colt reported a 144 per cent rise in sales to £55 million for the nine months to September 30. Colt's performance will be closely watched by telecoms analysts, who had their fingers burnt earlier this week

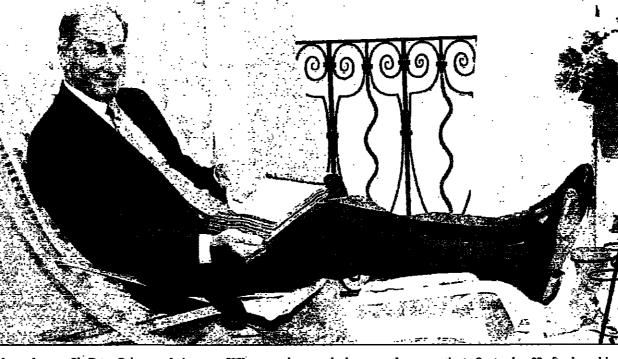
wireless rival, plunged 101p to 1562p, having floated in August at 42lp. Interest in start-up telecoms

companies will heighten even further next month with the flotation of Energis, the telecommunications arm of the National Grid, which is expected to be valued at about £1 billion. Energis will also aim its services -- provided by telephone, lines slung over electricity cables - at the business market.

John Doherty, director of investor relations at Colt, said: "The technology we use enables us to offer reliability and quality of service, although we also have competitive pricing. But we still have a long way to go. At present we have 800 customers in London, and we believe there is a potential market of 3,000 to 4,000. There is a huge amount of major business focused in the City." Colt said the problems that had hit Ionica would not affect its own business,

Colt said that half of the £200 million being raised would come from the offering of 16.8 million shares at 585p each; the other half would come from a debt issue of about £100 million.

Tempus, page 31



Measuring up: Sir Peter Osborne, chairman of Osborne & Little, the wallpaper man of Osborne & Little, the waitpaper and fabrics company, is taking a cautious view of current trading, but expects a satisfactory outcome for the full year (Fraser Nelson writes). Shares fell 42-p (£2.01 million) for the six

to 5972p, a nine-month low, as the company said that a slow start to the year

months to September 30 after launching four Nina Campbell ranges and the first Stewart Furnishings range under its stewardship. Earnings were 22.1p (20.2p) a share, and a dividend of 9p (8p) is due to

UBS loses £125m on derivatives

By Richard Miles, banking correspondent

UNION Bank of Switzerland has admitted to a SFr200 million (£125 million) loss in its equities derivatives business during the first half of the

UBS said the deficit had been incurred partly through a miscalculation in the pricing of options, and partly through changed valuations after an amendment to corporation taxes in Britain.

As a result of the losses, Ramy Goldstein, the Londonbased head of global equities derivatives trading, left the company this week, along with three executives from the New York operation.

ment controls remained "very

But a UBS executive emphasised that the trading deficit at its derivatives arms was a one-off event" with no further repercussions. He insisted that UBS's risk and manage-

disappointed yesterday by UBS's failure to announce a big acquisition, as market speculation had suggested. Instead, the bank unveiled a FFr358 million (£38 million) takeover of French fund manager Alfi Gestion. Mathis Cabiallavetta, presi-

good". City analysts were also

dent of the UBS Group executive board, said in his autumn trading statement that "the time was not quite right for the major acquisition which many people expected".

He said that the bank had studied a range of expansion opportunities before rejecting them. UBS, which owns PDFM,

the British fund manager. forecast that the group would return to the black this year at about SFr3.2 billion, compared with a loss of SFr348

Bid for Energy Group referred

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

THE Energy Group is only

A decision from Margaret

Paper on utility regulation. One of the issues which led to the surprise referral of the bid was the concern that The Energy Group could be harder to regulate if it were owned

had called for referrals.

weeks away from hearing its fate after a Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation into the £3.65 billion bid for the company by Pacificorp yesterday went to the Department of Trade and Industry.

Beckett, President of the Board of Trade, is not expected until January. The announcement comes at a similar time to the DTI's publication of its Green

by a large US parent.
This affected none of the

previous bids for electricity companies made by US businesses under the previous Conservative Government but in Opposition Mrs Beckett

when shares in Ionica, Colt's Chancellor's 'golden scenario' aims at noble entry into EMU

oday is a red-letter day. For the first time we have a Green Paper setting out a blueprint for the development of our tax system. It will finally take our economy from its ignoble exit, under the last Government, from the ERM on Black Wednesday (later revised to White) to my golden scenario of EMU entry. I have a number of tax proposals to

announce. As pledged in our General Election manifesto, I intend to introduce greater fairness to our tax system. I have three measures to announce today: A new starting rate of income tax at 10 per cent for the first £2,000 of taxable income, which will benefit all taxpayers.

☐ Changes to inheritance tax and the taxation of trusts to ensure that each generation is responsible for its own wealth-creation. ☐ A new general anti-avoidance measure. While tax avoidance is not illegal, it

costs the Exchequer many millions of pounds each year. From now on, the Inland Revenue and Customs and Excise will have powers to void any arrangement they decide is unacceptable. I recognise that some commentators have suggested this is contrary to natural justice and the rule of law, and puts too much power in the hands of the Civil

Since this view has mainly been expressed by accountants and solicitors who are responsible for the tax avoidance, I have ignored their comments on

I also want to reduce people's dependency on the State for pension provision. It has been scurrilously suggested that the £3.5 billion tax increases that I imposed on the pension funds in my first Bodget will affect tomorrow's pensioners. But we need to do more and I have two proposals.

On Tuesday, Gordon

Brown will deliver the

first ever pre-Budget report. Peter Wyman,

head of tax at Coopers & Lybrand,

has been reading the Chancellor's thoughts



Brown: "greater taxation fairness"

☐ I intend to introduce a new Individual Savings Account, thus honouring yet another of our manifesto commitments. Tax relief will be given on investment into specially designated investment accounts, which will be sold through the National Lottery operator to provide a nationwide network of easily accessible

investment points. Relief will be given at the new starting

rate of tax for investment of up to £2,000 each year for every adult whether or not they are taxpayers. It will be paid for by the phasing out of Peps and Tessas over the next five years. It will revolutionise the saving habits of the country.

It is saving habits the traite of capital gains tax for assets that have been held for more than ten years. The cost of this valuable measure will be met by an increase from 40 per cent to 55 per cent for gains on assets that have been held for less than three years.

The 55 per cent rate will also apply to gains that result from land sold for development, regardless of how long that land has been owned.

Finally, I come to business taxation. In my first Budget I announced a phasingout of foreign income dividends to bring to an end an unacceptable abuse of the tax system.

However, since that Budget unscrupulous businesses have further exploited the system. Accordingly, more drastic action is now needed. I have therefore determined to end the imputation system of corporation tax. In future, companies will no longer be required to account for ACT on their dividends.

A system of payment in advance for corporation tax will be introduced to even out the cashflow variance that would otherwise arise. Since there will no longer be ACT, it follows that shareholders will no longer receive a tax credit in respect of dividend receipts.

They therefore will quite properly be liable to income tax at the normal rates. These measures will meet the cost of the new 10 per cent starting rate of income tax in full. At the same time, relief for past, unutilised ACT will no longer be permitted, producing a one-off saving for the Treasury of £7 billion.



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THE STATE HARS

year, is a day that will always be etched on Sir Rocco Forte's memory. The hotelier had spent more than four months defending his family business from an unwelcome £3.8 billion bid by Granada. The outcome was on a knife-edge. Sir Rocco had been given little chance of saving Forte but had managed to convince many City cynics that he could revitalise the business. But one investor was key: Mercury Asset Management. It held 14.4 per cent of Forte's shares.

After a busy weekend Sir Rocco arrived at his office in Holborn to be told that Carol Galley and Stephen Zimmerman were on their way to see him. Sir Rocco thought that a visit from the duo — who had built MAM from a small and unloved operation within SG Warburg, the merchant bank, to arguably the most powerful fund manager in the City - could only be good news. He was wrong. "They came in person to tell Sir Rocco their decision." remembers his sister. and fellow Forte board director. Olga Polizzi. "That was the cruellest thing." But in the minds of Galley and Zimmerman this was not cruelty. It was courtesy. They had turned up to explain to Sir Rocco why they were selling: that, despite his hard work. accepting Granada's bid was merely in line with the investment philosophy that they had followed for more

than a quarter of a century. This phil-

osophy delivered London Weekend

Perfect practitioners of the art of value management

years previously, leading to accusa-tions of lack of loyalty by Sir Christo-pher Bland, then LWT's chairman, pner biand, then LW13 chairman, now Chairman of the BBC. This philosophy had revolutionised the City, given the duo seven-figure salaries and bonus packages and would ultimately persuade Merrill Lynch to pay £3.1 billion for MAM.

The bespectacled, punctilious Galley and thin, immagulately drassed

ley and thin, immaculately dressed Zimmerman started at MAM on the same day in 1971. To be accurate, they actually started at Warburg, as the fund management operation was not separated from the merchant bank at the time. Both were graduate trainees. The 22-year-old Zimmerman had hoped to work in corporate finance but found himself in the less glamorous area of fund management. Galley, famously, started in the library, but former colleagues say this was a temporary posting and it was not long before she joined Zimmerman under the wing of Leonard Licht, the controversial fund manager who created the MAM philosophy.

Under Licht, MAM took aggressive stakes in companies, much higher than would be dictated by the tradi-



CV: CAROL GALLEY STEPHEN ZIMMERMAN

Carol Galley: born 1948; Gosforth Grammar, Newcastle, and Leicester University: 1971 SG Leicester University; 1971 SG Warburg: 1981 MAM director; 1987 joint deputy chairman: Stephen Zimmerman: born 1949; Clifton College, Bristol, and City of London College; 1971 SG Warburg; 1981 MAM direc-tor; 1987 vice-chairman.

ings. MAM used principles described as "value management". This involves detailed analysis of a company to work out what it should be worth. buying a substantial stake and encouraging the management to work

hard to deliver this worth. Galley and Zimmerman were the perfect practitioners of the technique. They were highly intelligent, hard-working and came from outside the City establishment of public school and Oxbridge. They were dedicated and focused," remembers Licht, who left MAM five years ago, claiming it was getting too big. They surrounded themselves with similar people, such as Nicola Horlick and Peter Young, who both joined Morgan Grenfell with unhap-

py consequences. However, the group always had a City insider as chair-Stormonth Darling and then Hugh Stevenson, a Warburg corporate financier said to have "gone native" when he joined MAM. Even now, those who know Galley

and Zimmerman say they largely live for their work. Galley may have a cottage in France and her box at the opera, Zimmerman may have his season ticket at Arsenal but MAM dominates their lives, a facet which may appeal to their new American colleagues, as will their fierce loyalty to the company. Horlick, who joined MAM in the early 1980s, leaving in

dedication to the company philosophy, constantly pointing out to subor-dinates that certain ways of working

were "not the Warburg style". Galley has promoted the idea of breaking up the massive amount of money that MAM manages into bitesized chunks in an attempt to allow the group to grow without losing the spectacular performance that was behind its growth in the first place.

But many doubt whether this can continue. The recent performance of the firm's largest pension fund prod-uct — the MFS equities and property fund — has plummeted from 20th out of 70 in 1994, to 47th in 1995 and 67th last year. Other funds are said to have performed better, but MAM does not publish the figures. "Trustees have told us they [MAM] are not commu-nicating well, saying their record stands for itself," says a rival. "This could be interpreted as arrogance."

Another says that the sheer size of the combined Merrill Lynch/MAM business - with £266 billion of assets will mean it has to be more conservative. Even MAM admits that expanding the business further in the UK is a near-impossible task and longingly eyes Europe for further growth. "With a fund that big, the only way to recreate the old MAM performance is to buy 20 per cent of Shell or Unilever and frighten the management," laughs a former colleague. "I don't think even Carol and Stephen would want to do that."

JASON NISSÉ



Stephen Zimmerman and Carol Galley live for work



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Ken Clarke plc strides | Freudian flip on to business stage

landslide, he can now truly indulge his private passions. There is Europe, of course. The Conservative whips were never hugely successful in silencing him on the subject. Nowadays. he talks about little else and has the satisfaction of being paid for airing the views that so often caused apoplexy among his Cabinet colleagues. Earlier this month, he gave eight speeches in a week, several on the single currency.

But the former Chancellor

has come out of the closet in far less predictable ways. Once his sartorial fame rested on his soft brown shoes. Now there's that hat. Mr Clarke insists that this jaunty addition to his wardrobe, a trilby, has nothing to do colleagues in company

The former Chancellor shows all the enthusiasm of a new boy in his corporate role, says Janet Bush

ways had a penchant for headgear, but never wore hats in public while he was a minister (except at football matches) because Tory style-gurus disap-proved. Part of the delight of being a backbencher is that he can now be completely indifferent to his public image. "It's all me now." he says, gleefully. He is even contemplating growing an Ernest Hemingway type of beard", but only when he is a

Mr Clarke certainly looks fitter and more relaxed than he did at the Treasury in the dog-He says that he is less tired, but not noticeably less busy. His

THE SEA TIMES

role as standard-bearer of his party's pro-European wing and as the new chairman of the Tory Reform Group keeps him well occupied. But he now has to squeeze into a bursting diary his considerable new portfolio of corporate posts.

Ken Clarke plc, the new enfant terrible of British business, is headquartered in prime office space at No 1 Parliament Street. It may not be in the House of Commons or the reasury, but the windows of his third-floor office have closeup views of both. One wonders whether Gordon Brown ever gazing at his old command post across the street just a little

enviously. Mr Clarke has taken on four private sector jobs since the election. He has been appointed non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust and chairman of UniChem, the chemist that on Thursday announced a £278 million merger with Alliance Santé of France to create the second-largest player in Eu-

rope's drugs market. He is to act as adviser to Daiwa Europe, part of the Japanese securities house, and next year he becomes nonexecutive deputy chairman of British American Tobacco, once BAT's financial services business has completed its merger with Zurich Life, the

Swiss insurer. It has been estimated that once he formally goes on the BAT payroll, probably in the summer, Mr Clarke will be earning something in excess of £200,000 a year. He is not embarrassed in the least by such riches after 18 years as a relatively lowly paid Member of Parliament. He has clearly enjoyed the process of testing

his market value. "I found myself for the first time in my life using my negotiating skills on my own behalf, on how much I was going to be paid." Did he find this easy? "I got into it, yes!" he miffared. The nation's trends guffawed. The nation's teachers and nurses must be breathing a sigh of relief that his victims across the negotiating table this time are the bosses,

not the workers. In the summer, lunched for old times' sake by a group of economics editors, Mr Clarke was clearly being bombarded by offers from the private sector. If he had not been committed to politics, he says that he would have had the chance of even bigger jobs than the ones he has now chosen. He has turned down dozens of offers from publishing houses to write his memoirs because he has no intention of retiring from Westminster for many

r Clarke says TV 1 works, really really, really wants, to coin a phrase that he employed to spice up a preelection speech), is to help to run a business, not just lend his name to the company notepaper. His challenge now is to find enough time to play a genuine role in each of the companies which with he has involved himself along with a busy political life. He admits to CHANGING TIMES | all the enthusiasm of a new bary in his corporate affairs. But they are getting? It is a question he asked each one. "They appear to want my judgment, my experience of macroeconomic policy and the contribution I can make in discussions on furthering their business in various ways. I hope they have taken on board my capacity for decision-making and my capacity for expressing my opin-

ions," he says.
"I think in the case of the nonexecutive directorships, they have all encouraged me to be as forthright and independent as I have always tried to be." In other words, he acknowledges with some amusement, he is being paid to be himself.

What he has seen so far of the way business works seems to suit his temperament. He says: "I think the rule of politics is that you should get your decisions right and then you should seek to present your decisions in the best possible way. That is undoubtedly the order in which business does it. In politics, unfortunately, people will allow the presentation to completely obscure the merits of the decision. We have had some startling examples recently under the present Government."

udding company director he may be, but Any excuse for a sideswipe at his political enemies and he seizes it with gusto. His criticism of Labour's handling of the Formula One affair is quite muted, presumably because he is, himself, about to take the shilling from the tobacco industry, but he is rather more trenchant about his Conservative Eurosceptic colleagues. He argues that Tony Blair should have gone for an early referendum on the single cur-rency because he would have had a good chance of winning. Why? Because all the people the public like would have been in favour and all the rest would have been against, he

says with typical bluntness. Mr Clarke admits that he is a "political junkie". If he isn't devouring political biography and autobiography, he might diversify into a spot of political history. There is little more time now for the Chancellor's famous hobbies than there was in office. His recent spot of DJ-ing for a jazz programme was widely reported but was an isolated instance of extracurricular fun. He gets the odd day bird-watching, the most recent being a day in the mountains of Tenerife after a speech to a travel agents' convention. And he has indulged in some column writing for national newspapers. The main difficulty was meeting deadlines and finding something new to say. He professes to have a new respect for journalists.

Mr Clarke had thought that life outside the ministerial mainstream would allow him the time and freedom to hit the town with his wife, Gillian. They have talked about wanting to go to the theatre, but they haven't. Jazz clubs seem to be out too. The reason is simple. He has, in jargon that would go down well in the boardrooms he now inhabits, a "rather high recognition factor". Drunks ask if they can join him for the evening. They want to buy him a round. Perhaps he should be grateful. Free beer from the public is surely not a perk many former Tory ministers

hopers" was, I believe, the phrase used in Absolutely Fabulous to sum up the Freuds. The descendants of the founder of modern psychology have found fame in even more distinguished arenas — one a disc jockey, the odd novel knocked out, a public relations man, even an outcrop in the City — hi, David. Now one has found a niche at the most epochal project of the late 20th century, the Millennium Dome.

Matthew Freud, the public relations one, of course, is joining Sam Chisholm, former chief executive of BSkyB, his sidekick David Chance and Michael Grade, on the executive committee. Freud was signed up by Chisholm. "He is a huge force of energy and he understands the youth mar-ket," he says. We shall see.

City Spice? EMI has a new Spice Girl.

The label has signed up gor-geous, leggy Kathleen O'Donovan, advocate of Girl Power in the City and finance director of BTR, as a non-executive director.

I am well aware that O'Donovan hates being deemed worthy of comparison to that frolicsome fivesome of the stage and that she will doubtless find this item deeply offensive. But then I doubt she ever reads anything quite as trivial as a diary column.



Kathleen O'Donovan: Spicing up the City

Humbug

A MAN after my own heart, Kalle Lasn has been waging a five-year campaign against Christmas, and more specifically the lemming-like instinct that drives people to the shops be-fore it. He is an American advertising man who has been trying to start a national Buy Nothing Day every year on the Friday after Thanksgiving, deemed in the States for some reason the formal start of the Christmas shopping frenzy. Lasn has created a 30-second commercial featuring an ani-mated pig reminding his fellow citizens of how much they con-sume by comparison with less prosperous nations. Worthy but doomed: the three big American television networks refused to screen it, admitting that it went against their business interests. CBS even accused him of being "in apposition to the current economic policy in the US."

Floored

SO JUST who was the distinguished lecturer of economics at a British university who rang up the Stock Exchange's tele-phone helpline the other day and requested permission to show a gaggle of students around? "I like to keep my undergraduates up to date with what is happening in the City. Is it possible for us to come



down and see your trading floor?" he asked. Alas, it closed a decade ago.

● A VERY bad day yesterday for Charles Fry, chief executive of Johnson Fry, who was forced to issue a humiliating loss warning. Not quite as humiliating, though, as an event a few years back in his career. Fry is fourth-class degree, though he does not boast of it. His brother Jonathan, chief executive of Burmah Castrol, spilled the beans to a colleague of mine while back. I had no idea such a thing existed. A fail is a fail through lack of ability. A fourth is when you are deemed to have the ability but have been too idle to use it.

Doing time

MAX DOLDING, highly rated leisure analyst at James Capel, was at the High Court this week giving evidence in the Queens Moat Houses legal action, and he does not sound like he enjoyed the experience. Cross-examination by John Bairstow, the former chairman whom Queens Moat's current management accuses of misleading the market using analysts as fall guys, was about notes taken by Dolding at meetings with the company in the 1980s, and Dolding admitted he might be tempted to throw such notes away in the future.

Bairstow asked if he had been a leisure analyst for 33 years. "About 22. It seems like 33," says a dejected Dolding, adding: "I have actually been in this court for 33 years, it seems." So why did he attend? "Because I was subpoenaed to

Soap dish

IN what I hope will not become a trend, DX Communications, the mobile telephone retailer. has launched the official DX Coronation Street Mobile Phone. Purchasers will receive text messages carrying the latest about the Street. Alternatively there is a weekly recorded message with the latest "news". Just the thing for those unfortunate soap opera addicts who long ago lost touch with reality.

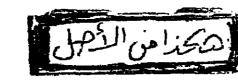
MARTIN WALLER





Evry Valley Shall Be Exalted (Air): And the Glory of the Lord (Chorus): For Unto Us a Child is Born (Chorus): There Were Shepherds Abiding in the Fields (Recit): And Lo! The Angel of the Lord (Acc Recit): And the Angel Said Unto Them (Recit): And Suddenly There Was With the Angel (Recit); He Was Despised and Rejected (Air); Hallelujah (Chorus): I Know That My Redeemer Liveth (Air); Behold, I Tell You a Mystery (Acc Recit); The Trumpet Shall Sound (Air); Worthy is the Lamb that Was Slain (Chorus)

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MICHAEL CLARK

Stock Market Writer

Suppose from Tony Blair in Suppose from Tony Bla The Conservation of the Co

Mr. State of State of the stalking the stalking the ral might be stalking the obile phone operator. By the close of business last ght a total of 8.36 million

ares had changed hands as e price rose 8p to a new peak 380p, where the company rries a price tag of Ell.6 llion. In fact, there has been savy turnover in the shares week amid suggestions that bid is being lined up. peculators take the view ere is no smoke without fire. merican Telephone & Teleraph, the US telecoms group, intinues to be tipped as a

ntential suitor. This comes just days after odafone revealed bumper rofits and announced a-new ries of price cuts designed to ike the mobile telecom price ar to its rivals.

Share prices generally were when a luoyed by another steady ni and erformance by financial marhalling ets overnight in the Far East nd the continued strength of ne Dow Jones industrial averge in New York. The rise of the FTSE 100

ndex this week has been xciting the chartists, who ave seen it claw back much of s recent losses, having reached the 4,950 level. Last right it closed at its best of the tay with a rise of 77.4 at .985.8 in thin trading that aw just 683 million shares hange hands. This stretches e gain on the week to 244

EMI Group raced up llp to 15p ahead of half-year results in Tuesday, which are expectd to show a sharp decline in pre-tax profits from £112.5 nillion to £71 million. The ipice Girls' latest album has een given a poor reception in he US and their first film ipiceWorld has been panned w the critics.

The breakdown in bid talks it Allied Colloids after little nore than 24 hours was reeted with dismay by the narket, as the price dropped 1312p to 126p.

failed to table terms and then prepared to pay a substantial premium to the ruling market price. Three lines of stock totalling 200,000 shares went through on the ticker at 130p,



Three of the Spice Girls, the stars of EMI, up 11p

as the ruling price stood at

115p. Safeway shed a further 9p at 319p, stretching the loss on the week to 8112p, as brokers continued to reflect on this week's profits warning accompanying the interim results. Nikko, the Japanese securities house, has slashed its profits forecast for the full year from £450 million to £425 million.

SmithKline Beecham continued to benefit from JP Morgan's decision to reiterate

past two days to 85p. Brokers on a visit to the group's operations in the Far East are sending back positive comments on what they have seen. Nick Dove, of SBC Warburg Dillon Read, has set a 12month target price of 820p a share. HSBC also rose 67p to £15.67 in sympathy. P&O continued to lose ground with a fall of 14p at

656p, despite being given the go-ahead this week to merge its ferry operations with those

Ladbroke ended the week on a firm note rising 4p to 293p after giving a presentation to brokers and fund managers about its hotel division. The group was upbeat about prospects and also gave an update about its convuercial alliance with Hilton Hotels Corporation in the US announced earlier this year.

its "buy" recommendation overnight in New York with a rise of 17p at 592p. US support was also directed at other British drug companies, with Zeneca jumping 48p to £18.03 and Glazo Wellcome 39p higher at £13.56 in response to the news that the EU had approved Combivir, its anti-HIV treatment.

Standard Chartered jumped another 36p to 728p, bringing the rise during the

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- BIRZASKI FUNDS

EPE OPTIONS

of Stena. ABN Amro Hoare Govett, the broker, is cautious about prospects. It is worried about the proposed price capping and loss of duty-free status on the ferries.

Flare Group continued to reel from this week's profits warning with a fall of 12¹2p at 50p. It stretches the loss on the week to 4412p. The group blames the problems of the "tiger" economies, which have

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profits warning also left Johnson Fry down 3112p at 85p. The financial services group says full-year profits will fall significantly below" market expectations, resulting in a substantial loss. The group has promised shareholders the dividend will be pegged at

sales and margins. Fresh concerns about future prospects left RJB Mining 712p lower at 150p. Reports claim that one of its biggest customers, PowerGen, has been putting pressure on the group to cut its prices. It has been complaining that its coal is too expensive and may be forced to look elsewhere for

Osborne & Little dropped 4212p to 59712p after warning about a slowdown in retailing activity during the second half. A similiar warning, which accompanied interim figures, saw Reflec touch 25p before reducing the deficit to

17p at 36¹2p. It was the first day of dealings on the AIM for Maelor after a placing at 88p. The price opened at 10212p before closing at 10312p, a premium of 1512p. CRC Group also made its debut on AIM after a placing at 90p. The price opened at 10212p before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 1812p at 10812p. □ GILT-EDGED: Bond prices edged lower in thin trading as profit-takers took advantage of the useful gains

achieved earlier in the week. Dealers said London moved lower in line with other European bond markets. The absence of fresh economic news also deterred investors from opening fresh positions.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt finished seven ticks lower at £1181116 in modest turnover that saw just 65,000 contracts completed. Among conventional issues. Treasury 8 per cent 2021 fell £14 to £11814, while Treasury 7 per cent 2002 was £116 easier at £1001516. □ NEW YORK: Wall Street stocks were mixed at midday, average gaining on fewer concerns over Asia's financial woes. Double-witching — the expiration of stock index futures and options - also caused some choppiness. By midday the Dow was 7,858.94, ☐ Because of technical difficulties options on this page are yesterday's.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): RSU.04 (-32.33) Tokyo: Hong Kong: Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt

Brussels . 43776.82 (+147.93) Paris: CAC-40 ... 2861.70 (~41.5) Zurich: SKA Gen 1178.30 t+15.70,

FT 30 FTSE 100 2p. The group blames poor FTSE 100 498.3 1-77.4
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.... 159.5 Oct (3.7%) Jan 1987 z !00

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RIGHTS ISSUES

Meyer Intl n/p (360) 17 Recentn Sys n/p (21) 14

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:
Kidston 33140 (+714p)
Partridge Fine 80o (+81-p)
Skillsgroup 155p (+14p)
. Cortecs 200p (+15p)
DCS Gp 2641-p (+19p)
Vendome 3451:p (+20p)
Dart
Stand Chart 728p (+36p)
IC)
Armvescap 421p (+18p)
Utd Utilities 765p (+24p)
Rentokil Id
FALLS:
Quarto 105p (-912p)
Landon Clubs 270p (-6p)
Net Express 596p (-9p)
Woiseley 515p (-7p)
Lloyds TSB 678p (-6p)
Ramco Egy 770p (-10p)
Vitec

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

TEMPUS

Over a barrel

Smiths can continue to play

the margin improvement

game. At 24 per cent, the

return on sales in medical

systems is close to the ceiling,

and the group has conceded

a fall by moving more heavi-

ly into distribution in Japan.

in perspective. The prospects

for the aerospace business

remain sound with military

These fears should be kept

SHOULD the market apply a discount to oil companies that invest in politically unstable countries? Enterprise Oil believes it should. Its chief executive last week questioned why the market failed to factor environmental and political risks into the equation. Anyone taking his speech to heart might have concluded that Enterprise Oil was a buy, given the company's focus on "safe" Britain, Norway, Italy and the US. Unfortunately, he spoiled his argument with a warning about production delays and

Enterprise stock suffered a pasting.
But the issue is worth debating. While Enterprise fell, its sister company, Lasmo, has been enjoying a share price boost and the latter is heavily invested in "unsafe" countries: Algeria, Libya and Indonesia. Lasmo is quick to point out that its operations in politically volatile countries have enjoyed a much greater level of

stability than in Britain where democratic government ensures that the tax regime is in constant flux (and may be about to change again). Indeed, the burden of appearing the public seems to be Enterprise's problem in Italy where Agip, its pariner, is attempting to secure permits from local governments in the impoverished south of the country.

Political risk may be more a question of perception than actuality and that leaves an integrated company such as Shell at more risk than a pure oil producer such as Lasmo with no link to outraged consumers. What does move share prices is the rate of growth. If Lasmo has had a good run, it is due to a run of drilling successes. Lasmo and Enterprise are now almost level-pegging in valuation terms but they are both cheaper than their US rivals

orders stretching some years

into the future. And Smiths

has yet to reveal the full

benefits of the recent

Graseby acquisition — said to be the first to carry the

Butler-Wheelhouse stamp.

Graseby was both a public

company, and Smiths' first

defence deal for a decade. At

79412p the shares look good

value for Smiths' fans.

Smiths Ind

SHARES in Smiths Industries have fallen by almost 20 per cent since it reported its atest set of good results last month. This looks excessive, even allowing for the production disarray at Boeing. an important customer for Smiths' avionics business. So far, at least, Smiths is continuing to deliver its products on time.

The length and consistenev of the company's track record has given the aerospace and medical devices group a premium rating that makes it vulnerable in a nervous stock market.

Sir Roger Hurn's gradual handover of the chief executive's job to Keith Butler-Wheelhouse, previously unknown in the City, gives investors another reason to

It is highly unlikely that

FLYING TOO LOW FTSE all-shan Dec Jan Feb Mar Apr May Jun Jul Aug Sep Oct Nov

Johnson Fry

WHERE is Johnson Fry going? The company has been search of an identity ever since the Government pulled the rug from under its core business in 1993: selling Business Expansion Schemes to private investors. In the intervening years, Johnson Fry has dabbled in several businesses, but with-

out much success. Now the firm is to make a go of fund management, or at least that is the line peddled by its new managing director Rebecca Thomas. She has dismantled and sold off the advice and insurance arms, as well as its property busiclosed the financial products division, leaving only a skimpy portfolio of unit and investment trusts.

The rationale for switching to fund management is clear: the business provides steady revenues and is free from the volatility of broking, and the

DOLLAR RATES

that comes with trading in financial products such as bond-lined fixed-rate investments. According to Ms Thomas, a one-off cost of £2 million is simply the cost of the new suit. Funds under management

have almost trebled to £919 million since Ms Thomas joined the company 18 months ago. But investors have no means by which to judge the Johnson Fry funds. Its UK growth and income unit trusts may both be top quartile in the performance tables, but a one-year trackrecord has little credibility. Investors should take a hint from yesterday's 27 per cent fall in the shares and sell.

Colt Telecom

AFTER the Ionica débacle earlier this week, the City's enthusiasm for another telecoms business is worrying. The Colt share price bears every resemblance to another stock market tyro racing towards the edge of a

AMP Inc
AMR Corp
AT & T
Abbot Labs
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ror image of Ionica. For a start, it actually runs a very successful network in London. Businesses and government departments seem to be willing to fork out extra cash for high customer service and good line quality. The idea is also working in Paris, with the rest of Western Europe looking just as keen. But large question marks still hang over the business. Last vear it made £11 million pretax losses: it is moving very

cliff, having doubled in value

over the past four months

from 2712 to just under 600p.

However Colt is not a mir-

fast, almost too fast to allow scrutiny; and it has still not delivered anything to shareindependent analysis of its value, which calls into question its current share price. which appears to have been plucked out of thin air. Perhaps a great company, but a

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

Nov 21 Nov 20 midday - down

WALL STREET

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	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Australia
Long Gilt	Dec 97 _	119-26	118-30	118-12	118-22	65673	Austria .
Previous open interest 183034	Mar 98 .	119-05	119-09	118-25	119-05	6977	Belgium
	MM 20 .	11-40	11707	110-20	11700	1971	Canada
German Govt Bond (Bund)	Dec 97 .	103.42	103.45	(03.17	103.36	130610	Denman
Previous open interest 28(a)9	Mar 98.	102.72	102.72	102.50	102.67	6253	France
Commen Cont Board (Bob)							German
German Govt Bond (Bobl)	Dec 97	103.65	103.88	807.01	103.77	70074	Hong Ko
Previous open Interest 20361	MAT 98 .	103.16	103.17	103.08	103.10	leb4	treiund .
Italian Govt Bond (BTP)	Dec 97	113.25	113.30	11295	113.13	36722	laaly
Previous open interest 131232	Mar 98	113.67	113.67	113.38	113.50	2185	Japan
1 0 L/10M							Malaysia
Japanese Govt Bond (JGB)	Dec 97 _	1296	129,69	129,52	129.55	3352	Netherla
•	Mar 98 .	128.86	126.92	128.77	128.60	2096	Norway
Three Mth Sterling	Dec 97	92,35	92.35	92.71	92.35	10438	Ponugal
- 111-00 111-01 201012018	Mar 98 .	92.28	92.29	92.25	92.28	6955	Singapor
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Previous open Interest 536896	Mar 98 .	94.72	94.72	94 61	91.07	1906-1	<u> </u>
Three Mth Euroswiss	Dec 97 _	47.91	97.91	97.84	97.56	4093	Argentin
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Three Mth ECU	Dec 97	95.34	95.35	95.34	95.34	999	Bahrain (
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Copenhagen	11.207-11.248	11.240-11.248	1- LPT	
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10 nerture	1.1264-1.1341	1.1303-1.1323	14-801	41
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10	Oracle 14', 15'.	Auffux 79

NEWS

Heseltine attack deepens Tory crisis

■ Michael Heseltine launched another attack on William Hague, plunging the Tory party into even deeper crisis after its humiliating defeat in the Winchester by-election.

The former Deputy Prime Minister reopened Tory divisions over Europe by giving his full backing to Peter Temple-Morris, the pro-European MP, who resigned from the Conservatives yesterday after having the party whip withdrawn Page 1

Child sex police raid two public schools

Two leading public schools were raided by detectives in a national police operation against a suspected child pornography ring. Sedbergh School in Cumbria and Durham School were

Case dropped

A man accused of hacking into US Air Force computers, causing £300,000 of damage, walked free from court after the case was Page l dropped

Disabled protest Campaigners for the disabled reacted strongly to plans to cut benefits for the 6.5 million disabled

people in Britain Page 2 Father's fears An army officer whose son died in a military training accident had asked him to leave the Army

because his unit was becoming a 'leaderless rabble"..... Page 4 Lawyer guilty

Penelope Schofield, a Crown Prosecution Service solicitor, was found guilty of perverting the Page 5 course of justice.....

Green tide of sushi

Irish farmers may be enticed into growing seaweed for sushi bars in Tokyo and London Page 10

Dome delights

The "fun and fascination" of the Millennium Dome awaiting the nation are detailed in the first official brochure.....

Publisher sued

The publisher of an American how-to paperback for would-be contract killers is being sued for aiding a murdererPage 15

EU jobs accord

The 15 states of the European Union embraced a modest package of measures to tackle unemployment Page 16

Lib Dem triumph

The Liberal Democrats celebrated a stunning win in the rerun contest at WinchesterPage 17

'Tricky' lover The Serbian interpreter for whom

an RAF officer allegedly murdered his wife was a "tricky and promiscuous" young woman, a court was

Defiant smokers fly the fag for Britain

■ The problem: the European pro-smoking lobby is holding its annual conference in Amsterdam this weekend but there are no flights from London which allow smoking. The solution: they hired their own plane and smoked for BritainPage 5



ENDANGERED SPECI 26 Lady's slipper orchid Cypripedium calceolus







45 Mole Cricker



WEEKEND

Fairy-tale princess: How the Germans see the story Shopping: Men's clothes take soft option. Pages 4, 5 Home life: Paternity trouble - a mother tells her Page 6 story Property: Penthouses: homes by the racecourse: top agents Page 8-10 Travel: Christmas markets; winter birdwatching;

Euro stars: Serious party-

ing in Paris...... Page 8

Jocelyn Stevens: The big

bad wolf of English Heri-

tage interviewed.. Page 18

Tough love: The rise of the

Promise Keepers . Page 27

Top wines: Jane Mac-

Quitty's choice.... Page 99

Comic reborn: Imogen Edwards-Jones meets Paul Kaye Pages 6-8

Music: Kylie Minogue's

progress from tomboy to

poptart Pages 12-15

Books: For an author, sell-

ing a book can be as hard

as writing it ... Pages 16-23

Vision

Full seven-day television and radio guide

Our new kids comic makes us debut

NEWS FEATURES

Royal values: The point about the Queen is that there might be minor changes of style, but her core values do

not change Pages 8, 9 Freak show: Women from a remote Burmese hill tribe who are renowned for their long necks are being used as exhibits in a human zoo in Thailand. Page 6

Valerie Grove: Sally Potter's new film is all her own work: she wrote it, directed it, stars in it in three languages; she dances, sings, and wrote the original music for it. (Beat that, Woody Allen.).. Page 21

COLUMNS ...

Old faces, new times: Winchester and Beckenham are melancholy warnings of the dangers of sticking to the Page 23 past .. The school run: State schools

Shining ram's horn snail

too must tackle the traffic. Safety at school is paramount. But so is getting there safely, healthily and on time. .. Page 23

LETTERS

EMU; school league tables; mystery of the monarchy: election results; early retirement: Luxor massacre: bicy-.. Page 23 cie travei .

week: the schoolboy who ran away to Barbados. He swapped exams and the English November for a dream of ... Page 22

Stamps depicting British animals and plants threatened with extinction were unveiled yesterday by the Royal Mail. They go on sale in January

COLUMNS

Simon Jenkins: Tony Blair is

already comparing himself to

Disraeli in his dealings with

his QueenPage 22

Simon Barnes: There is no

doubt about the hero of the

OBITUARIES. Robert Simpson, composer; the Right Rev Hugh Gough: Leonard Matthews, comics

Page 25 \$1.6895

London....

Cathedral

77.4 to close at 4985.8. Sterling rose from 104.3 to 104.5 after a fall from \$1.6958 to

BUSINESS

Insurance: Donald Gordon.

the colourful South African

insurance magnate, may be

ready to leave South Africa

and seek a share listing in

St Paul's: A Japanese proper-

ty developer stepped gingerly

into a British minefield with

new proposals for redevelop-

Markets: The FTSE 100 rose .. Page 31

.. Page 27

ing the ugly Paternoster Chase Championship by Square, next to St Paul's Mary Pierce Page 34 Sailing: Lawrie Smith, on Silk Cut, has moved into fourth place on the second leg of the Whitbread Round the World Race. ... Page 34

Rugby union: It is virtual-

ly impossible to concerve

that England will beat

New Zealand Page 33

Footbell: Shane Nicholson

of West Bromwich Albion

was cleared of taking an

amphetamine...... Page 37

Tennis: Martina Hingis

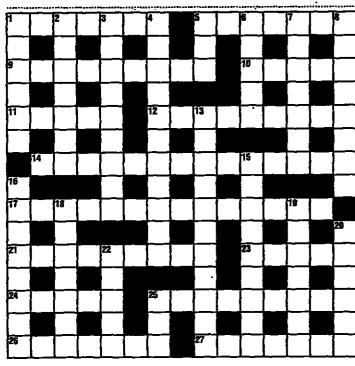
was knocked out of the

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,644

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition. PO Box 486. Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be

Name/Address.

published next Saturday.



- 1 Soldiers fit for another fight (7). Nonsense books I produced in a
- hurry (7). 9 To express weariness in public could be a mistake (9).
- 10 Top mark in Greek (5). 11 Behave badly in a court appear-
- ing for trial (3.2). 12 Moderate caught demonstration can become offen-
- 14 Game editor's request to readers?
- 17 Take action against bacteria, an
- unusual form of life (14). 21 State of a royal child (9).
- 23 Leader of Government ousted from friendly African state (5). 24 European money, including none that's controlled by French banks
- 25 Alien enemy surrounding domin-
- ion. right? (9). 26 Wandering account of a post-war
- decade (7). 27 School affected by cut has to secure inferior goods from US (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20.638

- 1 In New York, an inn for Japanese
- 2 He must control the players or teams become disorderly (7).

 3 Examine a religious group, one operating on a different plane? (4.5).
- Energetic senior editor seen about captive soldier (4-7). Turning cartwheels can make such a deep impression (3). Vote with the opposition party (5).
- One political representative a number of Germans suggested 8 Filly in form leading at Chelten-
- ham, say (4.4). 13 Starting instruction, this is how you'll be assessed (2,4.5).
- 15 Found his tables collapsing (9). 16 A top firm introducing first-class line in fashionable resort (8).
- 18 Sort of vehicle that provides a public service (7). 19 Write to after arrest, and meet
- 20 Jacket a girl put on king (6). 22 In which, essentially, you need to take a piece? (5). 25 Young cook (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,643

NEWSPAPERS

AA INFORMATION

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416 396

World City Weather 💆 The Met Office 153 destina. 6 day 0336 411216 0336 41633

Moterine 0336 401 885 0336 401 886 0336 401 887 0336 401 882

0336 491 499 0336 491 895

AA Car reports by fax 0336416399

HOURS OF DARKNESS

TOMORROW

New moon research.
London 4 02 pm to 7 32 am
Bristol 4 12 pm to 7 42 am
Editiough 3 53 pm to 8 07 am
Manchester 4 01 pm to 7 51 am
Penzanos 4 29 pm to 7 49 am

HIGH TIDES

lands 147, (51%) lowest day max 10.0% Fox 0 Tyrore, 080 (43%), highest randalf, 100 fox condin. 093%, highest surshme. Surmery homest lands. SUPPORT RECYCLING ರ್ಷನೀರ ಅವರ ಇಯ್ಯ ಫ

HIGHEST & LOWEST

FORECAST

☐ General: eastern parts will have a mostly dry day with pleasant surnry spells and only a small chance of a shower. Southwest England, Wales, Northern Ireland and northwest of Scotland will chilly start, there will be sunny intervals and showers, some heavy. A light or moderate breeze from a southerly direction. Max temp. 12C (54F).

SW & NW Scotland, Glasgow, Cent Highlands, Argyll, Orkney, Shetland: surny spells and showers, some heavy. have occasional showers, some heavy, but there will be good periods of sunshine in between the showers. The A moderate to fresh south or south easterly breeze. Max temp 11C (52F). English Channel coast may also have a Disorders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: mostly dry with sunny spells but an isolated shower is possible later. A moderate to fresh south-easterly breeze. South will stay dry. The wind will be light or moderate from a southerly direction,

but it will be fresh in the north. ☐ London, E Anglia, Midlands, E, NW, Central N & NE England: mostly dry and sunny after a chilly and misty start A light south-easterly breeze. Max

SE & Cent S England, Channel Islam: early mist clearing to give surny intervals and coastal showers. A light south to south-easterly breeze. Max temp 12C (54F).

SW England, Wales, Lake District,

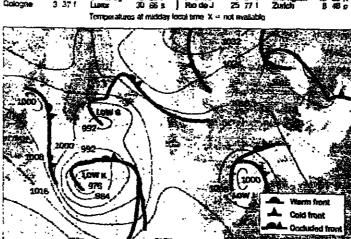
Max temp 10C (50F).

I Republic of Ireland: mostly dry, apart from the odd coastal shower, with bright or sunny spells becoming more cloudy later. Wind light and variable becoming southeast. Max 11C (52F). ☐ Outlook: most parts will be dry and chilly but with plenty of sunstrine. tomorrow. However, east coests of England and Scotland will have more in the way of cloud and some light showers.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

0.14 0.14 0.41 0.09 0.25 0.27 0.05 0.13 0.02 0 04 0 09 0 01 59 GO6 X 2.8 0.43 4.3 0.15 4.5 0.20 5.1 0.08 2.4 0.39 3.9 0.93 5.7 0.08 - 071 4.2 0.18 3.1 0.11

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Changes to the chart above from noon; low G will remain southwest of leeland and fill, low K will move slowly northeastwards and start to fill; low J will drift eastwards and slowly fill

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charity treks ... Pages 25-33

tage interviewed. Tough love: The rive

Stemmer, Perbert Pa Top wines: Jane Quarty choice ... Pa

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Comic reborn: line

Edward - Jones n Paul Kaye Page Music: Kylne Mine mention to an leading

Books: For an author. me a bunik can beath на менитер и ... Разва

WEEKEN

Fairy-tale princess | the Cormans see the Shopping: Men's de base soft ephon. Page

Property: Penthal without in the racing

Travol: Christmas I

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Figure .

SHOPPING



Why. Claudia should be allowed to light-up



Paternity trouble: a mother tells her story



Sporting parents' guide to skiing for children

Pages 28,29

TRAVEL

THE

VEEKEN Diana, the last fairy-tale princess

The life and death of Diana, Princess of Wales has been turned into a children's story, but one that the Royal Family may find too close for comfort.

Roger Boyes talks to one of the Austrian authors



Robert Menasse, one of the authors of the The Last Fairy-tale Princess, and Gerhard Haderer, the book's illustrator

girl called Sophie, in fairy princesses. Fortunately, Sophie's father was a novelist, her mother a historian, her Diana, Princess Diana. The aunt a journalist and their newspapers: the Princess. Confamily friend a cartoonist, versations with my wife: the Gerhard Haderer, known for Princess. On television: the his scathing caricatures of the Queen of England.

And so a fairy-tale was re- ner? Correct. invented in time to fill the Christmas stockings of German children.

The Last Fairy-tale Princess was written for five to nineyear-olds who missed out on the storybook life of Diana, Princess of Wales, obscured as it was by the adult maze of eating disorders, adultery and

On the day that the Princess died, Robert Menasse, an Austrian novelist, headed out from Vienna to his country cottage with his family to do some work on his novel. "I must

nce upon a time confess that Lady Diana never there was a young interested me," he said. But his life, he found that weekend, who did not believe had been invaded by the death of the Princess. "On the car radio: Princess Diana, Princess funeral. What did my wife, my sister and I discuss over din-

> "Then my daughter suddenly piped up: Why are you talking about a princess the whole time? Princesses only exist in fairy-tales'." The eight-year old girl was irritated that the grown-ups were obsessively talking about a child's subject without even involving the children.

The short book redresses the balance. The pictures can be viewed as parody - the Queen. in particular, comes over as a grumpy mother in law - and the words are witty to adult readers. But the main audience gently that the marriage of a beautiful girl to an eligible prince does not, in itself, constitute a happy end, or even a happy middle.

Modern fairy-tales have footnotes and postscripts. "There was once a kindergarten teacher," the book says. "She lived in a land surrounded by water. The country was ruled by an old Queen guarded by men who wore fur helmets even in summer." The Prince, whose ears are distinctively shown in the pictures, "liked to wear checked skirts and woollen knee socks. Most of all he liked to play polo, a ball game which is very difficult because you

"The Princess was photographed the whole time . . . The Prince was so upset by the fuss that he preferred to spend his time with a lady-friend, who no one wanted to photograph is little girls who have to be told have to ride horses while playing it". The couple met, married and "never before have so many people in the world watched television at the

same time". The media weave in and out of the story because they, too, are part of modern fairy-tales. Indeed, journalists play the role of wicked wolves.

"The Princess was photographed and watched the whole time ... she was never

left in peace." The result: "The Prince was so upset by the fuss that he preferred to spend his time with a lady-friend, who shared his interest in riding and who no one wanted to photograph."

This being a fairy-tale for little girls, the Princess's clothes feature strongly. "She had the very best clothes and when her cupboard was too full, she sold them. And because a princess is different, her worn clothes were worth more than they were new. She earned lots of money, which she gave to the poor and

nd then something happened which never happens in fairy-tales: The Prince and the Princess divorced. This was so outrageous that the Princess was followed by photographers and reporters everywhere she went. The whole world wanted to know: what would the beautiful Princess do now?" After the divorce, the prin-

cess became the most photographed woman in the world. And so her clothes became even more precious and earned even more for the poor and the sick. After her death, the authors say, "her old clothes were worth ten times what they were

worth when she was alive". The little girl to whom I read this story understood the point: that the Princess's clothes were somehow part of her magic, like gold spun out of thread.

The lonely Princess fell prey again to the evil photographers when she fell in love with a millionaire. "He loved the Princess so much that he wrote poems for her and had them engraved on silver plates which he placed under her pillow."

Then, the Paris chase, the fatal crash. The most dramatic picture in the book depicts Dodi Fayed (identified only as "the millionaire") making a dash to his car with Diana... "In those days it became dangerous to be seen with a camera."

Adult irony edges into the narrative. "It was a sad time for the famous conductor, for the famous opera director, for the famous psychotherapist, and the very famous missionary

Continued on page 2

8-10 COUNTRY LIFE 12 PETS.

I7 FAITH.

GARDENING..... 21-23

TRAVEL

GAMES..

ANOTHER TIME. ANOTHER FACE. REVERSO DUO.







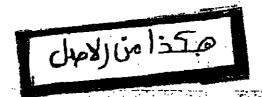






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Their last minutes: the fairy-tale depicts Dodi Fayed (identified only as "the millionaire") making a dash to his car with the Princess of Wales, eluding the paparazzi who play the role of wicked wolves

Continued from page 1 and Peace Prize winner who died in the same week. Because nobody found the time to talk about their

Children love statistics. So many newspapers were sold after the crash "that Finnish woodchoppers had to work twice as much as usual" to supply the wood that made the paper that produced the newspapers. Planes full of flowers had to fly from Israel to keep up with the demand for floral tributes.

The Queen does not escape lightly in this tale. "The old Queen never much liked the Princess," the book says. "Now she had to do all kinds of things to honour her, because otherwise the sad people would have chased her out of the palace.

And in the whole land flags hung at half-mast as a sign of grief" — except over Buckingham Palace, until "the people compelled the Queen, whether she liked it or not, to hang her flag at half-mast as well".

Sophie's mother, who is narrating the story, tells her daughter: "That was the tale of the last real fairy-tale princess. And because she died, she

That the Princess of Wales lives on is certainly the impression one gains from German newspaper stands: the front pages of 12 titles this week carried pictures of her with headlines such as "Diana -Evidence of Murder?", "Diana Speaks to her Children from the After Life", "Charles to Camilla: I Don't Want to See You". In Berlin,

'The people compelled the Queen, whether she liked it or not, to hang her flag at half-mast'

the Diana myth".

The myth of the Princess has had an impact on many continental novelists. "Writers are voyeurs." Menasse says. The function of a writer, he says, is to disentangle myths from their interpretation, to set the story straight. "First there was Oedipus, then there was the Oedipus complex... Yet we behave as if it were the other way round -

students have been enrolling for a as if the Oedipus complex was term of courses on the semiology of always there and the figure of Oedipus is just someone who matches the symptoms."

The same is in danger of happening to the Princess of Wales. There is as yet no Diana syndrome, but soon well-born anorexic daughters will be told that there was always such a syndrome."

Suhrkamp, the publisher of The Last Fainy-tale Princess, has sold the rights of the book around the world.

and is talking to British publishers. The central question is whether the British reading public is ready to accept, so soon, the reshaping not only of the Princess's life story but of a specifically national myth. Some British readers may also find Gerhard Haderer's illustra-

tions too adulty satirical. He portrays the Queen as a scowling matron with an outsize crown, and in one of the scenes shows the Princess hobnobbing on a sofa with celebrities while Michael Jackson is sitting on the floor playing with one

of the young Princes.

Menasse's fairy-tale devotes more space to the national mourning of the Princess's death than to her marriage; in some ways this flatters the British people but it may, over

time, seem to be the correct reading of the relationship between the Princess and the British psyche.

Menasse argues that the Princess is a key to understanding the modern world. To describe our world we do not need to resort to the ancient myth. We have our own

myths and our own fairy-tales." After the adults had compiled the text, they read it over and over again to Sophie to ensure that she understood the story. The fairy-tale ends up, like the Princess's life, "as an easily understood story which we cannot completely understand".

The book is dedicated to Sophie.

● The Last Fairy-tale Princess, by Elizabeth, Eva and Robert Menasse. Illustrations by Gerhard Haderer (Suhrkamp, Frankfurt).

not" — suggests that a serious treatment with angles other than Morton's is unlikely to be

published soon. "The inter-viewees would not talk until at

least a year after her death."

she explains. "If I was a great

friend of hers, I wouldn't."

Morton still outsells the rest

Diana: Her True Story in her own words by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). Controversial biography. Sales: £1,357,372 Diana, Princess of Wales: A Tribute by Tim Graham (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £12.99). Photo-story of her life. Sales: £313.173 Diana: Her True Story by

Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £6.99). The original exposé: Sales: £152,551



Diana: A Tribute to the People's Princess by P. Donnelly (Bramley Books, £7.99). Sales: £88,715 ■ Diana. Princess of Wales 1961-1997: A Tribute in Photographs ed. Michael O'Mara (Michael O'Mara, £15.99). Sales: £85.934 Diana: Her New Life by Andrew Morton (Michael O'Mara, £6.99). Sales: £74,814



TIM GRAHAM

■ Diana: A Life and Legacy by Anthony Holden (Ebury Press, El6.99). Sales: £38,262 ■ Diana Remembered by The Daily Telegraph ... (Macmillan, £12.99 and £14.99), Sales: €31,358 Diaha! The People's Princess by Nicholas Owen (Carlton Books, £12.99). A



Diana Princess of Wales: A Tribute to Our Princess by Audrey Daly (Ladybird Books, £1.50). This pocketmoney buy has 20p of the cover price donated to the Diana Memorial Fund. Sales: £23,234

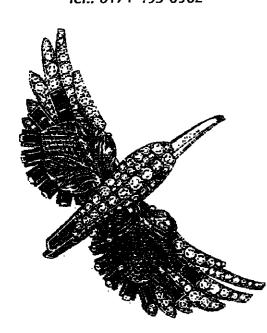
• Sales from Aug 31 to Nov 15. Source: Whitaker BookTrack.

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Diana still big news in the book world

THE MARKET

People who believe that the market for books on Diana, Princess of Wales is saturated, should think again, Alex O'Connell writes. International interest in her story is unprecedented - there are three Diana books in the New York Times bestseller lists — and as many as 50 more books on the Princess her life and death are planned for publication before the first anniversary of her

death next summer.

While British publishers negotiate with the German publishers of The Last Fairy-tale Princess, there are signs that Christmas sales of the books already on offer are levelling



A Chinese bookseller pins up a poster promoting Diana books. Interest in the Prin

out. Such delights as the Teletuboles are now outstripping Diana in the bestseller

 \mathcal{L} ondon best

HOLLAND & HOLLAND

IL-IL BELTON STREET, LONDON WIR BIS

REFINEMENT STILL COMES WITH A DOUBLE-BARRELLED NAME

But the trade is hoping for a late Christmas rush and is confident of a surge in the run-

While Andrew Morton still tops the list with Diana: Her true story - in her own words. followed by the photographer Tim Graham's Diana. Princess of Wales: a Tribute, biographers have little doubt that there is room for more. up to next year's anniversary.

Among those with books in the pipeline are the acerbic writer Julie Burchill, whose description of Diana some years ago in a newspaper column as "the people's Princess' has been plagiarised without shame by Tony Blair. Burchill is pro-Diana and her book will contain plenty of

large, flattering pictures ac-companied by spiky prose — the spikes being used in de-fence of her heroine. Two Time magazine journalists are finishing an investi-gation into the circumstances of Diana's death, looking those responsible and provid-ing a detailed chronology of

her last moments.

Death of a Princess: an Investigation will be one of the first serious attempts to determine who was responsible for the accident on that Sunday night in August and, as result, is likely to sell.

The market will take an investigative book and there is room for more picture books as well," says Georgina Capel, Julie Bur-chill's literary agent. "But it can't take any more of those general books."

The royal biographer Sarah Bradford, whose book Elizabeth, a Biography of Her Majesty the Queen, was serialised in The Times, believes a serious treatment of the Princess would sell. "I was sent a lot of Diana books to review and I dug my heels in and said no because most of them were too awful," she says. There was one called Letters from God, written by children to God after her death, and another called The Wisdom of Diana. "

Bradford, an admirer of Andrew Morton's book - "it is still the best whatever your view of whether the tapes should have been included or

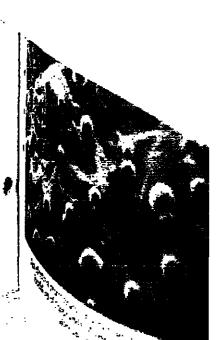
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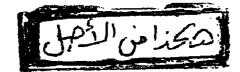
TOP TEN

Morton

still

outsells

the rest



Who's been sleeping in my bed?



A kiss recorded on heat-sensitive film. White shows the hottest areas of the body, the face and underarms, while the cooler parts are shown in dark blue



Ordinary detergent bubbles, at around one five-hundredth the thickness of a human hair, are one of the thinnest substances visible to the naked eye



An electron micrograph of a human hand, showing the build up of thousands of sweat droplets produced after an hour's exercise

weating in terror, you are locked into a hideous dream of carnivorous aliens swarm-

ing over your body. The alarm jerks you awake. "It was only a terrifying world of nightmare," you think, but in fact the real nightmare is only just beginning. microscopic bugs You roll out of bed, leaving your

and chemicals that

invade our daily life

embalming fluid formaldehyde - or

a chemical near-cousin - goes in: the

chemical is ideal at forming tight

flecks of pulpwash.

The first glasses are drunk content-

edly, but the teenage daughter reacts

furiously when more is offered her.

Don't they realise that she just so happens to be on a diet? The mother

tries to ignore the outburst, but several hundred nanograms of the

peptide hormone ACTH are likely to

be cascading down from her brain, in

daughter's flare-up. This can upset

her immune system for hours, mak-

ing her more susceptible to cold

viruses or other microbial assaults.

the carpet and investigating his

sister's leather jacket, which is coated

with thousands of cotinine molecules,

residue from the cigarettes she

smoked the evening before. The

molecules bounce off the leather into

the air and float into the sniffing baby's lungs. Some of the molecules

will pass into his bloodstream and

end up, months hence, stored in his

growing hair. The carpet beneath

him is densely impregnated with hairs, skin flakes, textile fibres, fragments of dead insects, pollen.

bacteria and millions of particles of

Blissfully unaware of this micro-

scopic jungle, the family gathers itself

for a trip to the shops. Outside the

shopping centre now — the daughter

late their endorphin levels to rise.

speed up, but then there might be

months-old cat saliva

The baby, meanwhile, is sitting on

reverberating response to her

linking groups between proteins, be it dissolved bits of cadavers or scattered

partner to luxuriate for a little while longer on her warm pillow . . . where a small civilisation thrives. These are Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus the flesh-eating pillow mites. Under the microscope they are hulking armoured beasts, with eight legs and massive rhino-like necks, which makes them superbly equipped for

life inside our pillows. Their feet have flared pads, like a creature from Star Wars, to prevent them sinking into the soft filling, and since it is hard to see in the dim light, they signal romantic availability not by crude bellowing calls, but by the polite release of a floating vapour.

The insect swivels its huge neck to get a directional fix, and then, as gracefully and balletically as an armoured monster can, trundles hopefully forward for the trysts that await, to produce yet more of these generations that live beneath us, microscopically nibbling our loose

Their population can be as low as 10,000 in ultra-hygienic homes, but if this is the house where busy professionals only change the pillowcases, but neglect to rinse, soak, boil or simply wash the pillow itself, then the inhabitants can be discreetly fruitful and multiply for weeks, months or

In homes like this, each pillow might be home to 400,000 or more creatures. And with the half-pint of water vapour we exhale over them every night, they are safely

In the kitchen, dad opens a bottle of freshly-squeezed orange juice. Some of what's there actually comes from squeezed oranges, but that is pretty expensive stuff, so a lot of it is simply recycled pulpwash, a substance made by spray-blasting otherwise unusable rinds. Since pulpwash on its own tastes as terrible as you'd expect, sugar is added, then some of the active chemical from nail varnish remover, to give the pulpwash a palatable tang, and then varnish solvent, to keep that tang from getting too strong.

To stop the floating mess from

breaking apart entirely, a dose of the

lagging ostentatiously behind where solar photons which were speeding through space at the orbit of Venus just two and a half minutes ago crash on to the family. Everyone's mood unexpectedly goes up, for the crash-impacting phoons stimu-

David Bodanis carpets once they are in store, which makes them slow down. They are also likely to veer to the right - which reveals the is why shopping centre owners can charge higher rates on that side.

The son takes out a stick of chewing gum as he browses. Chewing gum has to be made of substances soft enough for chewing - Vaseline, lard or beef tallow are commonly in there - and trap them in a bouncy rubber matrix. To stop unpleasant leakages, bits of children's glue are mixed in. along with dollops of sticky soap, or even polyethylene - the stuff that makes up plastic bags.

The parents pause at a food shop. eager to drink a liquid mash that plants evolved to fatally over-accelerate the neurotransmitters in ancient bulge-eyed insects. It is coffee, of course. When a non-dairy creamer is stirred in, it becomes attractively white as it is poured out. This is guaranteed by manufacturers mixing in titanium dioxide. It is the same whitener that sloshes around in buckets of white latex paint, which is something to think about while sipping coffee outside a DIY store.

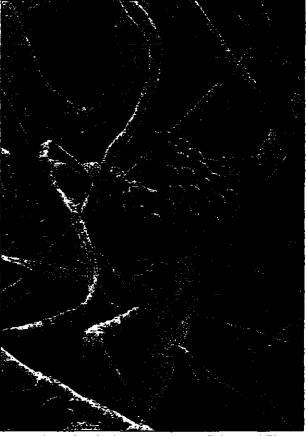
ack home, the tail-thumping dog is desperate to greet the returning family. If there is a big slobbery kiss — and who can resist? - then several squirming Entamoeba gingivalis predators that live in the mouth of 50 per cent of domestic dogs will be transerred over. These can survive for days or weeks in your mouth. squirming around our gums for their live bacterial prey.

Along the way there is likely to be a squelching Alien-like expulsion, as up to 16 baby amoebae emerge from each one. Most of the babies quickly battle each other to the death, or simply free fall from where they try to cling on to us and, with a barely noticed gulp, they are swallowed.

The day is over, so it is up to bed. While dad turns the thermostat nice and high - ideal for boosting the pillow-mite population — mum helps her son fluff up his pillow. Each whacking compression shoots geysers of dust mite body parts into the room and they float down over the boy all night in allergy-inducing

There is more to do, but the parents are tired. They climb the stairs to The family is likely to be greeted by sleep, and to dream. tiles at the entry, which makes them

The Secret Family, by David Bodanis,



Household dust is rich in hairs, skin flakes and fibres from clothing and furniture. At the centre of the electron micrograph is a fragment of an insect's compound eye



Orange juice is often seen as an antidote to colds but while the vitamin C crystals of ascorbic acid dissolve in the human body, most of them float to the bladder



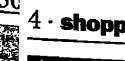
CLENMORANGIE WOOD FINISHES

For those who nose.

ou have a

aint against

ewspaper?



B ta



Sir Nicholas Goodison with Sue Jackson and some of her automata in the Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. "They should be seen as works of art"

Playtime for grown-ups

MY FAVOURITE SHOP: SIR NICHOLAS GOODISON

ir Nicholas Good-ison's outwardly patri-cian manner conceals an almost boyish enthusiasm for mechanical toys. It is a lifelong interest that regularly lures the deputy chairman of Lloyds TSB and former chairman of the Stock Exchange into an unusual establishment in the heart of Covent Garden.

Sue Jackson's Cabaret Mechanical Theatre exhibits and sells automata — the intricate, ingenious and often wickedly humourous mechanical toys of which Sir Nicholas is a leading collector. They are extremely colourful, very amusing and provide a lot of fun." he enthuses. "When you have people to dinner, they

love to play with them." Sir Nicholas bought his first one when he was 19 and serving in the Army in Germany. He now has 900, from pecking hens and cone puppets to designs by such leading British craftsmen as Paul Spooner, Peter Markey, Keith Newstead and Ron

Many were acquired through Ms Jackson, who originally opened a craft shop in Falmouth, where she started exhibiting the work of Peter Markey and Paul Spooner; in 1985 she opened in Covent Garden. "I don't like the words art and craft, shop, exhibition or museum — I wanted to create a place where everybody could just come and

have fun." she says. Although there is an admission charge, Ms Jackson insists it is not a money-making venture, but a labour of love. She recently had to sell two prized originals to an American collector for £27,000 to keep going: most pieces range in price from £15 to £1,500.

"I always recommend visitors to London to come here because it is one of those

INTEREST

going...
going...
gone on 21.01.98

wonderful unsung places that are a joy to discover," says Sir Nicholas, who admits that although he often comes just to look round, he usually ends up buying something.

On this occasion he parts with £865 for the latest annual Paul Spooner limited edition - a suggestive piece entitled The Green Ball and described as "a woman having a nice time with her washing machine". As the handle is turned, the wooden mechanism makes the machine spin in a most realistic way until a green ball is thrown from from the front.

The flow and the sequence of the movements are what make it so clever," says Sir Nicholas. "And the wry humour is typical of Spooner." Pausing to chuckle over Ron Fuller's lifesize ticket collector, who automatically stamps your ticket on the door, he enters the museum section to

DEPOSIT

point out some of his other favourite pieces.

Keith Newstead works in metal and his peacock, which cocks its head and fans its tailfeathers in a lifelike manner, is much admired. It was his flying dragon, the original of which has pride of place in the window, that prompted Sir Nicholas to exceed his price limit some years ago when he paid £300 for it.

e says: "Until then. my ceiling had been £50. The dragon was one of the first things Newstead made, and the way he articulated the whole body marked him out as a man of genius."

He is also a great admirer of Peter Markey's wooden wave machines, which recreate an ocean swell using a series of complex wooden gearings. Sir Nicholas bought one of his

gross p.a.* fixed

larger pieces and donated it to the National Museum of Wales, where it is displayed in the foyer. A lifesize golden donated to the Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood after he commissioned them from artist Roy Hewson, only to find that they were too big for his

Sir Nicholas's love of art has always been linked with his business interests, and he is currently chairman of the Courtauld Institute, the Crafts Council and the National Art Collections Fund, the independent charity that raises more than £2.5 million a year to help museums and galleries buy works of art.

One of the first things he did after taking over at Lloyds TSB was to fill the building with works of 20th-century British art, much of it by young artists. When I arrived, the offices were third-rate, like a station waiting room," he recalls. "I wanted visitors to go away feeling that this was a company of quality and style." He has also published scholarly articles on the history of furniture, clocks and barome-ters as well as writing books on Ormolu, the work of Matthew Boulton, and English

barometers 1680-1860. Automata, he insists, should be viewed as works of art and not just novelties. "I don't know why there is this assumption that toys are only for children," he says, admiring a miniature that features a mouse taking a piece of cheese from a trap just before it snaps shut. "Some of these pieces are so delicate that you could not let children play with them very often — well, maybe only grown-up children."

MICHAEL CABLE

• Cabaret Mechanical Theatre. 33/34 The Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 (0171-379 7961). Open Mon-Sat, 10am-7pm, Sun 11am-7pm. Admission: £1.95 (children and students, £1.20)

WHEN YOU are travelling

you can miss some luxuries,

like waking up to the sound

Bags of class

IT HAS to be bomb-proof and beautiful; cool and stylish and totally practical: it has to be strong enough to carry the boring things, big enough to carry the important things and small enough to go through a revolving door without making you look ridiculous.

In short, it's tough being a briefcase. And with the variety of styles and designs available, it's getting tougher to choose one. The rule is you can have only one — a briefcase is not a handbag. Two briefcases says you are trying to impress the wrong people. Three is careless-

Black is safe: looks sharp

BRIEFCASES

doubts about your reliability in bank-like circles. But black is the kiss-of-death for your carefully casual dressdown Friday look of tweed jacket, chinos and deck shoes. Brown is a tricky colour -- there are browns and browns, and some of them are closet yellows.

The colour rule is simple: if you can't spill an espresso on it without staining, the colour is too light. Any colour except black or brown and it's not a briefcase, it's some kind of rucksack.

So, you've agonised over the colour, now you must beside a suit and won't raise choose a style - and answer another practical question: will you want to be able to sit on your briefcase? If the answer is yes, go for something rugged. But if you can generally find a chair, con-sider one of the soft-sided attaché-case briefcases.

Material? You can choose from rubber, canvas, aluminium, nylon and good oldfashioned leather, which smells nice (an oft-forgotten virtue in crowded commuting conditions) and it just gets cooler and more beautiful with time, as it collects scuffs, scars and wrinkles just like its owner.

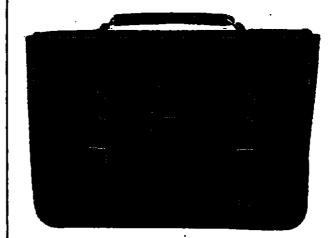
ANGUS CLARK Photographs Des Jenson



ABOVE: Mulberry's Riley briefcase, £350, in walnut leather, has separate compartments to maintain order, and a soft leather handle and shoulder strap (0171-491 4323)



ABOVE: Black leather briefcase, £375, from Ermenegildo Zegna (0171-493 4471) with padded nylon strap and wooden nametag. Has two practical zip front-pockets



LEFT: Brown leather briefcase from Dr Martens, £110, for the tough young executive. Has two front closures and a shoulder strap (01933 419853)

BELOW: Mandarina Duck's Tank briefcase, £195, is made of rubber and canvas. It is lightweight, yet shockproof and has a detachable nvion shoulder strap. From The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401)



ABOVE: Paperchase's brushed aluminium portfolio, £75, looks very cool, and has a square photoframe inset (0171-580 8496)



RIGHT: At £1,850, the Hermès tan Danube briefcase is worth holding on to; it has a classic shape and is crafted from fine leather (0171-823 1014)



ABOVE: Armani's black briefcase, £589, in shiny leather. At Harrods (0171-730 1234)



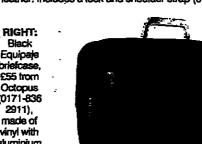
ABOVE: Black nylon briefcase, £13.50 from Paperchase (as above), has two compartments



ABOVE: Portfolio, £129, from Brics UK in tan and brown leather. Includes a lock and shoulder strap (0171-924 2166)



ABOVE: Dark brown Louis Vuitton (0800 393304) briefcase, £710, with two compartments



Equipaje briefcase, £55 trom Octopus (0171-836 2911), vinyl with afuminium

handle



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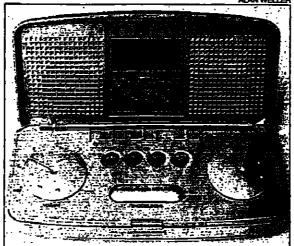


*Gryss ancress rates do not take into account deduction of mature tax at the lower rate. Lloyds Bank Plc is registered in England no 2065.

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GADGETS

the shape of a regular specof music on the radio. Lexon's Voyageur is not tacle case, it has an extend-ible aerial and two large only tiny, it also boasts an FM radio in stereo. Built buttons for volume and into its own travelling box, tuning. The radio errs on the



The tiny Voyageur radio is a marvel of stylish design

tinny side but is a marvel of design nonetheless. You also get an AM radio should decent FM stereo reception be too much to hope for wherever you lay your head.

Most of us cart a camera or camcorder with us when we go on holiday, but once you start adding secondary equipment like tripods you can quickly turn into a heavily-laden one-man film crew worthy of one of Michael Palin's globetrots. Mini Stativ is a sensational flexible tripod just three inches

It is small enough to slip into the tiniest backpack yet robust enough to fix equipment for steady or timed

TIM WAPSHOTT

● Lexon's Voyageur costs £39.99 from Business & Gifts Ltd (01372 376554 for stockists); Mini Stative, £4.99 from The Leading Edge

BARGAINS

"我们是让我的人,我们是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们就是一个,我们

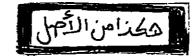
There are bargains to be had all over the country. With £100, what would you buy?

FORREST & Co in London's East End specialises in auctioning household and office items on behalf of county courts and bailiffs.

Beside the polished chrome and velour dining suites, and the nouveau ceramics, there is old mahogany furniture and other genuine antiques.

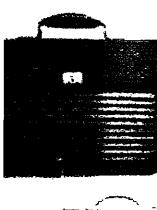
I bought a wicker laundry basket a carved trunk and a quantity of theatrical ware (c. 1940) for £28; a small oak wardrobe for £10; 180 various CD singles for £18; an antique Persian carpet for £16; a Marconi Bakelite radio and a Bakelite telephone for £28.

VICTORIA O'BRIEN ● Forrest & Co Ltd., 17-13 Glibbons Road, London E15 2HU (0171-534 2931) has sales every other Thursday. Viewing: day before sale 10am-5pm and morning of seleorning of sale, from 10am.



class

ANCAS CLARK N. 12 Dre Jessen







WEEKEND SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Softness is next to manliness



ABOVE: Fine-knit sweater £185, Missoni, Browns; Harvey Nichols (0171-584 0011). Belge moleskin crop jacket, £69.99, River Island (0181-998 8822)

atharine Hamnett has a simple rule for judging the suitability of what a man is wearing. "All a girl has to ask is: Would I go to bed with a man who wears that?" "

Thankfully, she says, men's fashions this season are sexy. The minimalist looks that have defined the Nineties have infiltrated high-street stores. resulting in clothes that are simple, lean and sophisticated.

They are sharp yet under-stated, cool but comfortable... And with men's shift in attitowards grooming. helped by countless specialist magazines and style programmes, the quality of the clothes they buy has improved, too:

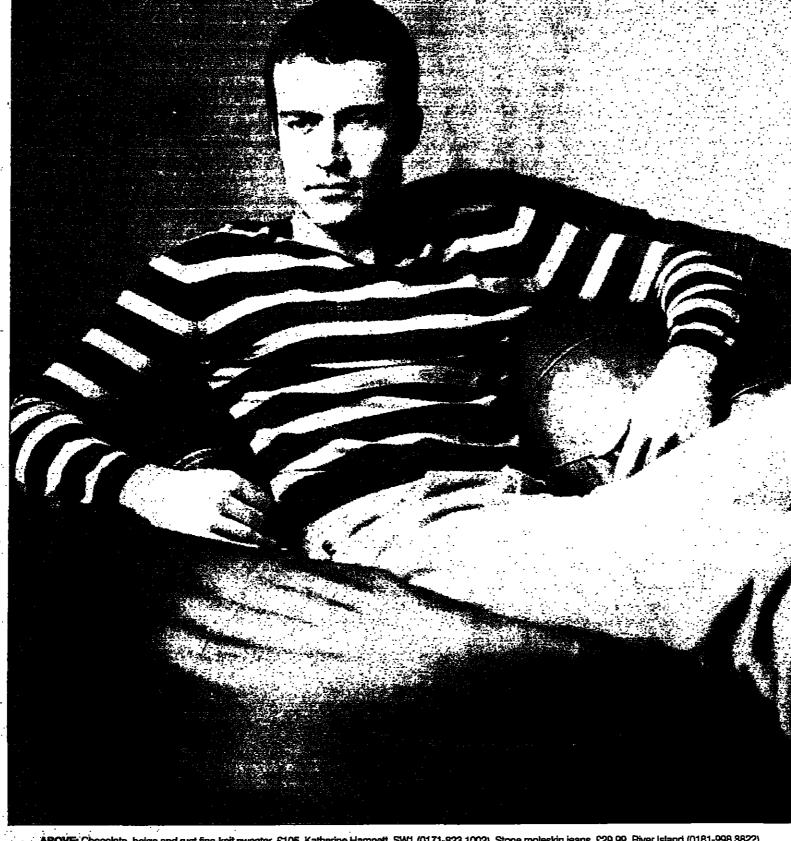
Current casualwear is a far cry from the Eighties, when the only males who wore crewnecks were advertising execs and film crews. Even for semismart occasions, every man can now get away with a flatfronted pair of trousers and shirt — or, even better, a piece of classic knitwear.

Kijitweat w element at the men's. To complement the urban autumn/winter shows. There 🗣 were round-necks, V-necks, crew-necks and sloppy sweaters, worn with a varied mix of textures — leather, moleskin. pinstripes and indigo denim.

lthough most were delicately coloured stone grey, chocolate, midnight blue and - designers such as Missoni, John Rocha, Nicole Farhi and Clements Ribeiro paraded wild patterns and stripes in bold hues such as ochre, lime green, tangerine and turquoise.

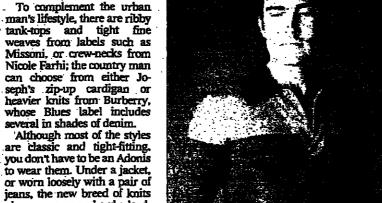
The choice of men's knit-wear has expanded considera-bly from lambswool, Arran and cashmere. As Hamnett says: Today you can get the same style in cashmere or Wensleydale, a super-fine weave or a heavy knit."

This means that it is not only golfers who are seen in their diamond patterns and



ABOVE: Chocolate, beige and rust fine-knit sweater, £105, Katharine Hamnett, SW1 (0171-823 1002). Stone moleskin jeans, £29.99, River Island (0181-998 8822) ABOVE RIGHT: Angora sweater, £275, Nigel Curtiss, Browns (0171-491 7833); Camel cotton jeans, £150, Helmut Lang, Browns and Harvey Nichols (0171-584 0011)

RIGHT: Animal-print sweater, £155, Eliot, Browns, as before. Dark brown moleskin jacket, £100, and matching trousers, £49.99. River Island, as before



Although most of the styles are classic and tight-fitting. you don't have to be an Adonis to wear them. Under a jacket, or worn loosely with a pair of jeans, the new breed of knits gives every man a hard-edged. Nineties appeal which is cool. And, as Katharine Hamnett points out, sexy.

stripes. Most fine knitwear is soft and stylish enough to

LISA GRAINGER

Photographs by Richard Burns and Chris Harris Grooming by Sally Kvalheim for Jo Hansford (0171-963 2236)





LEFT: Khaki, dark green and blue sweater, £120. Katharine Hamnett, as before. Deep blue jeans, £100, Byblos, Harrods, SW1 (0171-730 1234)

ABOVE: Multicoloured striped cashmere sweater, £385, Clements Ribeiro Browns, as before

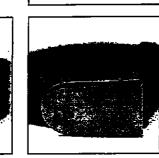






RIGHT: Black leather, silver square-buckle belt, £50, Paul Smith, WC2 (0171-379 7133) **BELOW RIGHT:** Black soft leather belt with GA buckle. £89, Giorgio Armani, SW1 (0171-235 6232) BELOW: Black leather, silver square cut-out buckle belt,







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هِ كَذَا مِنَ رِلَامِل

'Although my son's birthday falls at roughly the same time every year, it always comes as the most tremendous surprise to me'

y son and I are just about to embark upon our seventh year of life together (eighth, really, I suppose, if you count, as I tend to. The Time He Spent Inside), and it occurs to me that after all these years I have still not learnt to look any further into the future than the next minute.

The lack of this useful skill has certainly contributed to the thwarting of my life's ambitions (I was at college with a fellow who was admiringly rumoured to have his entire career mapped out in easily achievable stages on a flow-chart. whatever that may be). Over the years I have failed successively to become a ballet dancer, a veterinary surgeon, a simultaneous translator, an academic and a biographer.

But despite this fearful catalogue of missed opportunity, it is in life with Alexander that my inability to anticipate is still most shamingly visible: Good gracious, I seem to be expecting a baby. Crikey, what is that stabbing pain in my middle? Oh, I see, now I am having the baby. Crash. Oh. look. he has learnt to crawl. Sizzle. And get his finger quite a long way inside the electric socket. And now, blow me down, his birthday

It's his party and I'll cry if I want to has come round again. This event, they were tired and though it falls at roughly the same time wanted to go home. But then, while he

every year, always comes as the most tremendous surprise to me. About a week beforehand, when the postman starts delivering immense jiffy bags full of lavish presents from comparative strangers, I suddenly realise that I have made no preparations of any kind, and fall into a useless frenzy of guilt and self-reproach because I am a terrible mother with a heart of stone. It was easier when he was tiny. In

those days. I would buy a large quantity of champagne, and make an airy sponge cake with a candle in the middle of it, and invite my friends round. We would sit around the Moses basket, consuming the cake and the champagne and admiring the infant sleeping sweetly in his Bonpoint pyjamas. No pass the parcel, no party bags full of disgusting lollipops. No one threw up because they had eaten too much cake, and only one or two of them burst into tears at the end because

was still in nappies. the spectre of the children's party began to haunt me. Little moppets with legs too wobbly to hold them upright would send Alexander engraved invitations to come and celebrate their anniversaries. And so we would take ourselves

off to spend a couple hours in a cavernous drawing-room where, amid hideous wails of terror and dismay from the infant guests, magicians and clowns would turn up in motley garb and do their squeaky voices and make their jokes and pull rabbits out of the birthday girl's tiny ear.

The organisation and expense of these

LIFE AND SOUL



by far anything that Caligula could have devised. I thought they were perfectly horrible, and said so to Jessica, whom I had known rather well in the years when we were both childfree and had social lives, and had reckoned to be a kindred spirit. -

going to participate in this absurd cargo system, where Sybil has to have live elephanis at her party because Georgie had fire-eaters at his, and Sophie's mummy is flying over the Moscow State Circus for the afternoon to perform in a marquee in the back garden. It is vile and ridiculous and ... and uninnocent," said I, voice rising to a self-righteous shriek. "OK," said Jessica, coolly. "But if you aren't going to join in, you can't accept the invitations, can you? And then what will Alexander do about friends?"

Oh dear, Because I am farouche and, in fact, more or less unsocialised, this aspect of things had not occurred to me. So here I was, about to deprive my poor child of friends, make his schooldays miserable and probably condemn him to spend his adult life as an ornamental hermit — all on some Cromwellian point of principle. The fact that Alexander himself was not, as a toddler, much of a party animal and, when taken to some jolly kiddies gathering, would look austerely around the assembled munchkins and say, loudly and with evident distaste, "I think all these children should go home now", simply made things worse. Obviously, a party would have to be held.

Only, what sort of party? Our house was custom-built, as far as I can tell, for a family of early 19th-century midgets.

There are two rooms up, and two down, and three people constitutes a crowd in any of them. Even if I were to hire Mr E. the arrestingly-named entertainer who seems to have the children's party market pretty well sewn up in our area. he and his funny balloons would fill up the drawing room all by themselves. The children would have to watch from outside, through the front window. As for marquees in the garden — the only kind of circus we could comfortably accommodate in our diminutive patch is a circus of performing fleas.

las, I said to Linda, in a hopeless sort of way. What am I to do? She let me swing in the wind long enough to make me resolve that for next year, I would book a London bus, and start assembling party bags 12 months in advance. And then she took charge. Which is why you will find me, next Wednesday afternoon, patrolling Kiddies Corner in my Darth Vader outfit (Alexander wanted me to go as Princess Leia, but I can't get my hair to do that thing over the ears) prodding with my light sabre any little child who seems not to be enjoying himself ...

Mother's dilemma: whose son is he?

in 1994 there was a blank space on his birth certificate under 'Name of father". I knew emotionally and irrationally who his father was, but I did not know with scientific certainty and, rather than simply insert my husband's name into the empty space, I em-barked on the daunting pro-cess of acquiring proof of who

the real father was. There are some things that nobody ever talks about. Even in the confessional, new morality of the Nineties there are still a few taboos, one of which is what scientists call "the

frequency of non-paternity". Even in ultra-conservative Switzerland, an analysis of blood samples revealed that this was I per cent of the population. In less orderly societies, the figure is believed to be about 4 per cent, with child support agencies suggesting it could be as high as 15 per cent. In other words, a significant number of men are unknowingly raising children who are

not their genetic offspring. This means that we are all likely to be acquainted with a family in this position, even if

tistics has just revealed a

we are not aware of it.

Caroline **Bridgewood** on

the pain and

uncertainty of not knowing who

your child's

father is

dramatic rise in the number of women who do not name a father when they register their child's birth: more than a quarter of a million during the past five years. There is no information about the number of women who take this course because they do not know the identity of the father, but it it is likely to be significant.

Given the complex and fluid nature of modern family life. this is not surprising. Relationships are short-lived and fidelity even more so. Couples can opt for separation to deal with their problems and then reunite; women can opt for single parenthood as a positive

When my marriage started to fail and I became unhappy. drifted into a relationship



Caroline Bridgewood didn't know who was the father of little Titus - her husband or her lover. She confessed, and divorced. A paternity test later answered her question

with a man who made me happy. Then I became pregnant unexpectedly and was faced with one of life's most difficult moral dilemmas: should I say nothing and let everyone assume that the child was my husband's, or should f own up and face the conse-

quences? After four months of acute anxiety, sleeplessness and the worst physical stress I have ever known, compounded by severe morning sick-

ness, I owned up. My husband and I separand subsequently vorced. My lover and I also went our separate ways. al-though not until after our son was born.

I was astonished by the criticism I encountered for going public. "Shut up and don't rock the boat: that way you'll hurt fewer people" was the most frequent piece of advice. It seemed I was going against a long-standing precedent of social behaviour.

In his controversial book Sperm Wars (Fourth Estate.) 1996), the biologist Robin Banks confirms that, although the female subconscious is programmed to find the optimal genetic material for her offspring, it is also programmed to provide the optimal rearing conditions for them, and this may involve them being raised by someone other than their biological parent. In allowing this to happen, we are getting a better evolutionary and dynastic "result and avoiding what Banks calls the disadvantages of infidelity".

This evolutionary need seems to have been built into our morality: none of the women I know who have faced my dilemma have chosen to come clean, and there are more of them that you might expect. The unfaithful, like the poor, are always with us.

ilary, a successful and independent businesswoman who became pregnant on the casp of two relationships, trusted to luck that her son would turn out to be the offspring of her new husband, and, judging by their strong physical likeness, her gamble seems to have paid off.

Sarah, the wife of a landowner and for whom divorce would have caused an inheritance nightmare, stayed mum in the face of gossip about the striking resemblance between her youngest child and her constant male companion during the summer before her

daughter was born. Alison, another businesswoman, who was pursuing an affair while trying to conceive

with her husband, hoped for a little "accident" because she was convinced that her lover's offspring would be more at-

tractive than her husband's. The sister-in-law of another aquaintance was finally found out and is now divorced, but only after an affair lasting seven years and two children fathered by her lover.

Concealing non-paternity is a risky strategy. Better for the marriage, perhaps, but disastrous for the mother-child relationship, which becomes based on a dangerous and potentially devastating lie. And one she might have to

keep up for ever. Every child must be registered within six weeks of its birth, hence the blank space

on Titus's original birth certificate. I had insisted on a formal test for paternity, but this did not take place until he was seven weeks old.

Blood samples are required from father, mother and child. and we opted to be "done" together, making a ghoulish little family outing to the phlebotomy department of a nearby hospital. Five weeks later, the result

arrived in the form of a letter from a commercial diagnostic laboratory, which can rule out a potential father but not absolutly rule one in. Instead of a "yes" or "no", there was a statistic the probability of my lover not being the father of my son was four million to one.

CELEBRITIES WHO HAVE FACED THE LOVE CHILD PROBLEM

relief. I could now tell the world what I had suspected since Titus's ultrasound scan, when I saw his father's profile in miniature. I was able to reregister his birth with a full entry, and was reassured by the registrar that this was a more common occurrence

than I had imagined. Knowing the truth has not changed our outward circumstances for the better, nor is paternity testing a process that can be gone through without at best discomfiture, and at worst, pain. But my bright, healthy, affectionate and charming son compensates for all the anguish. And so does the knowledge that I will have told him the truth.

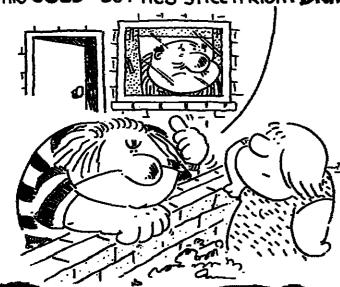
There are a handful of

laboratories offering

THE TEST

paternity testing, some handling about 10,000 cases a year (and numbers are rising). Your GP can tell you the nearest. You contact the laboratory direct to arrange for forms to be completed and blood taken. A passport photograph of all parties is required. The cost is about £500 for testing nother, baby and putative father. A report is sent two to three weeks after the test. • For further information, contact Customer Services at Cellmark Diagnostics on 01235 528609.

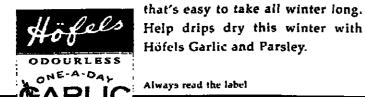
HÖFELS GARLIC AND PARSLEY HELPED HIS COLD - BUT HE'S STILL A RIGHT DRIP.



WITH PARSLEY

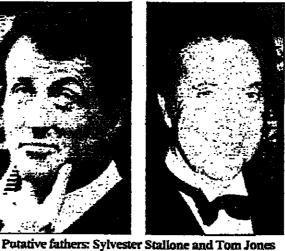
Everyone feels under the weather when they've got a cold. And sometimes there's no sympathy either. Fortunately Höfels Garlic & Parsley - a traditional herbal

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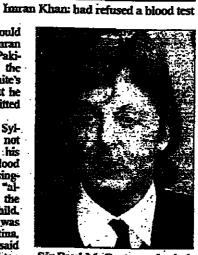
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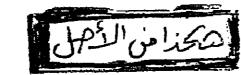
The heiress Sita White with her four-year-old daughter Tyrian

A BLOOD test could reveal whether Imran Khan, the former Pakistan cricketer, is the father of Sita White's daughter Tyrian, but he has recently admitted

Tests showed that Sylvester Stallone was not father of his girlfriend's baby. Blood tests proved that the singer Tom Jones was "almost conclusively" the father of a love child. Paul McCartney was sued in 1984 by Bettima, Huebers, 21, who said she was his daughter. The case was dismissed.



Sir Paul McCartney: denied fathering a child



surprise to me

are two rooms up, and two drawn ese people constitutes a crowd in them. Even if I were to hire Mr E restantly-named entertainer who the have the children's pany Lipsetty well sewn up in our area.
Live funny bulloons would fill up Paring room all by themselves. The to worth have to watch from a Director the front window As for kes in the garden - the only kind a we want combinably accome was grammarise batch is a circuitate

cas. I said to Linda, in a hopeless assetti was. What am I to day She es my swing in the wind long to the same treader that for held weened back a London bus, and something party bage 12 months in to and then she has charge or with year will find me near way Affarmagi, Patrolling Kid office it my Darth Vider outh per wanted my to go as Princis see a seer as my hair as do that age to cares, prodding with my about the child who seems no



commendation of the question

garage and 20,000

and the first

When non-smokers are a drag nd now, I think, it is time to say something for the smokers. It is hardly an exaggeration to say that they are being persecuted, almost worse than persecuted, and if you think that that is an exaggeration, just think of the men - and women who have been sacked for smoking. And I do not mean just

the smokers who break the rules; I mean the ones who keep to the rules, yet find themselves out of a job. (Yes, that does happen, and the innocent smokers are treated as though they were the baddies.) Now if a Moon-man came down

to Earth, he would, waggling his peculiar ears, look around for human beings. He would already know what we look like, and he also would now know many of the things the human beings do. For instance, human beings like

to be warm, not cold, and dry, not wet. So far, so good. But then our Moon-men begin to scratch their heads in wonder, to find our human beings wet and cold and shivering. The smokers had been

It was a long time until that great man, Richard Doll, who knew everything about the human body. first spotted the connection with that body and the inhaling of tobacco smoke. (There is the mystery - I don't think even Professor Doll could elucidate it - the mystery of the vast hundreds of thousands of people who had smoked like chimneys without coming to

In the light of

Tony Blair's tobacco

sponsorship débacle,

Bernard Levin,

leaps to the

defence of smokers

any harm.) Come, away from this dandying and playing and mincing and dancing: I am speaking up for people - ordinary, decent, honest people — who like to smoke.

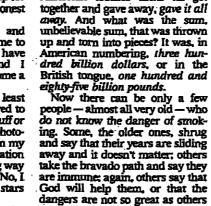
Now, before the howling and

yelling gets into gear, allow me to say that I am not a smoker, I have never been a smoker, and I certainly am not going to become a My grandfather smoked at least a dozen every day (and he lived to be 97), and my mother had a puff or

two in a month. There is a photograph of me with a cigarette in my mouth, but closer examination shows that it is held the wrong way and presumably not burning. No, I am no smoker and I thank my stars that I am not.

I have repeatedly pointed out the appalling cowardice of the United States. No, I am not talking about the Americans in war, who were all as brave as any fighter, it is the

And only a few months ago there



was a supreme example, almost

certainly never to be beaten. The American tobacco firms all got

There are, of course, many in the United States (and nowadays more and more in Britain), who demand payment even if there is nothing to pay for - that is, knowing the danger of the smoke and then complaining about a sore throat.

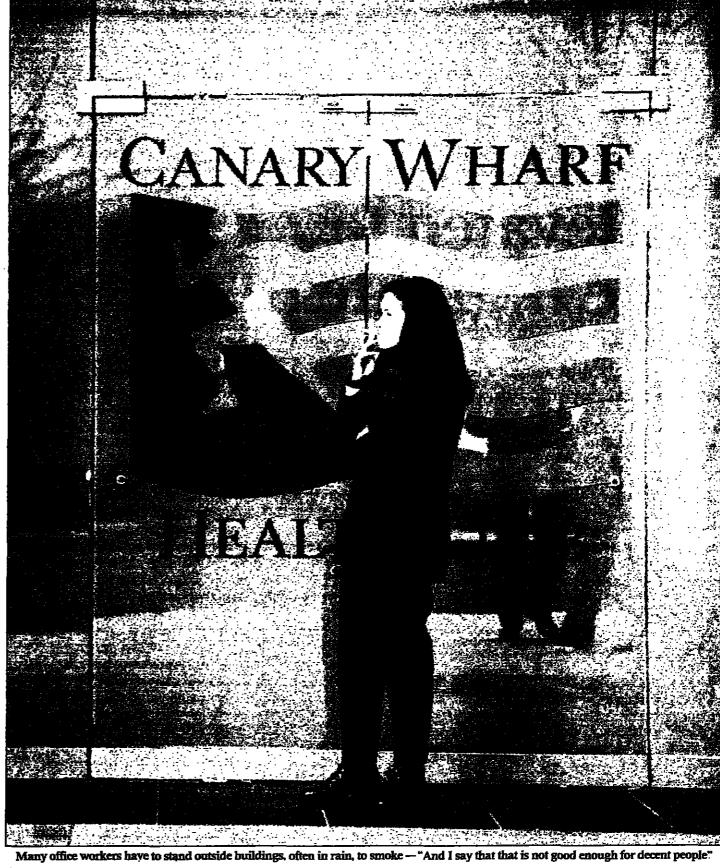
Before the great crash of billions leaping styles, there were a few cases in which the tobacconists fought and won. The most remarkable was one in which the plaintiff was dead — from smoking — and his family lost the case. I think that that must have been the last of the single fights, and the last words in the story were, "I don't know how people in the industry sleep at night".

ut let us look not just at those millions and billions; let us look at a few people who smoke, knowing the danger. Outside this very building there is something like a mournful gathering, a daily gathering that might resemble a group of people coming back from a funeral.

The gathering runs round almost all the building, and all the way around there are people leaning on the brickwork to smoke. Cold, rainy, windy, there is nothing to break the nastiness. And I say that that is not good enough for decent people. As I said, the Americans were,

and always are, the first to run away. In Washington you can see signs reading "No smoking in this entrance", and it goes further: they are now about to bring in laws which would confine the smokers to fifty feet away from any doorway (lunacy, thy name is tobacco) — finally putting the smoker on the pavement. And believe it or not, the pavement smoker must be walking all the time he smokes.

You think that such madness could never take root in Britain? You are wrong. Try Kleinwort Benson for one (I never did like the cut of their jib), which "allows smoking in the office only after 6pm, has no designated room, and bans its staff from smoking near the building". And now the PM is



Blair accused of wrecking tobacco ban". Next, Tessa Jowell, the Health Minister, is trying to ban smoking in pubs. In pubs!

It gets worse. And worse. And worse still. Take this idiotic exchange with the Health Secretary, Mr Dobson. Models who smoke cigarettes on the catwalk were condemned as "disgusting". He said models such as Claudia Schiffer (one of the most beautiful ladies alive), who had been phographed holding a cigarette even though she does not smoke,

the wrong message, and if you had seen the glorious Schiffer close up (I have) you would have the sense to put a bag over your head and keep it there. And, while I'm on the subject, Madame Jeanne Louise Calment - who was the oldest person in the world when she died at the age of 122 - was not only a smoker, but would have died with a fag in her mouth had she not had to give up just because she could no longer light up without help, and

was too proud to take help. What is this madness that has

being accused of poisoning the were sending the wrong message. swept America and is about to country, with headlines reading No. Mr Dobson, you are sending sweep Britain if we let it? I should point out that the French and even the Germans would think us crazy, and the Spaniards were puffing when the world was still a baby. (The Japanese beat the lot of us by hundreds of years, and good luck to

By now there can be no man or woman alive who does not know the danger of smoking. The Dobsons and their kind try to claim that all smokers are in peril if they take a single puff, when in truth the number of serious smoke-killers is

and shoved and even spat upon. and he becomes a kind of football, put out for kicking. But why? It is very easy to keep out of smoking areas, and in any case most of the smoking areas are just showing off. And, as our Science Editor makes clear, the chance of a non-smoke getting lung cancer by smoking is one in 10,000. As if the abolition of tobacco advertising would change anything!

Go away, you frighteners, and if you don't shut up I shall get an enormous pipe and pretend I am smoking it.

Family life on the ocean wave

Claudia Schiffer: condemned by Frank Dobson for smoking

Tor most of us, messing dabout in boats means hiring a pedalo on a quiet Sunday afternoon at the lake in the local park. It does not entail spending several years constructing your own craft and then sailing it across

But that's exactly what some people are doing. Last week two brothers, Edward and Matthew Boreham, had to be rescued from the middle of the Atlantic after the power supply in their homebuilt rowingboat failed. And next spring Helen and Jeff Hall from Bath will take their two sons on a

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Taking children to sea for two

years requires skill and guts

two-year cruise round the West Indies in a catamaran it has taken them two and a half painstaking years to construct. Mrs Hall hopes the family isn't attracting interest for the wrong reasons. "The reports about those chaps rowing across the Atlantic were insulting. One of them was a boatbuilder, but the newspapers made their boat sound like something out of a church jumble sale — they put it on a par with knitted recordercovers. I felt the media were

doing them down."

She experienced similarly negative feedback when she announced to family and friends that she and her husband planned to sail into the Caribbean sunset taking Jamie, 11, and Alexi, 8, out of school for two years in the process. (The children will be educated by their parents following the National Curriculum with CD Roms on the onboard computer. Jamie already dazzles with his knowledge of the Global Positioning System, a hand-held navigational computer.)

The Halls, who have previously spent several years working in the Bahamas, are no strangers to the phenomenon of daring to be different. Early in the 1990s, they defied people's advice and built a house from scratch. Helen happily admits that they are "social misfits". "In all sorts of things, we swim against the tide," she says, with something approaching pride "Often we've been proved right. We're oddballs. The British are highly conservative and find us off-the-wall. I'm sure people think we shouldn't go on this trip, but we're a strong-willed couple, so they wouldn't say as much. We have a certain cussedness - or perhaps independent spirit would be a nicer way of putting it. We've al-ways done things differently." Even Alexi wants to do things his way. He says: "My friends say they wouldn't want to risk the trip. They say other working in stressful as



Helen and Jeff Hall who will set sail next spring for two years in the Caribbean

what's the point of it?. I think that attitude is ridiculous." Jeff, a man with a mission.

thinks nothing of putting in a 12-hour day preparing the boat but takes time out from the back-breaking work of sanding the hull. He wants to make sure the mightily impressive 36ft-long catamaran is in good shape and, it must be added, holds its resale value of up to £90,000.

Sitting in the cockpit of the vessel (housed in a corrugated-iron barn on a nearby pigfarm), he views the trip partly as a kind of bonding process. "When a storm is blowing, it will bring us closer together to see each

well as idyllic situations." But he, too, ultimately comes back to the point of not subscribing to the herd mentality. "It's a simpler life when you shed all the dross," he says. "We wanted to do this trip on our own terms. It's something we've looked forward to showing the children. We're saying to them, look, you don't have

to stay in England all your lives and do a nine-to-five. Don't get stuck in a rut'." Helen says: "They'll probably end up doing a nine-to-five and wearing pinstripe suits, but at least they'll have the freedom to choose.

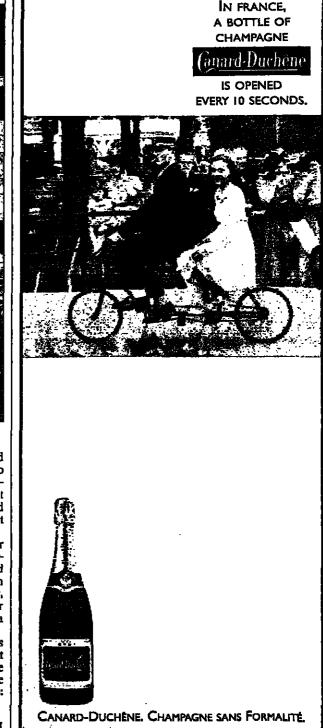
"When we come back, the boys will be unstoppable. They will have such a solid

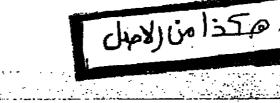
practical, academic and philosophical. There's so much more to life than material possessions. The boat is just a means to an end - the end being a way of life that you just can't achieve in Britain."

The Halls might appear impossibly New Age and idealistic, and two years cooped up in a catamaran may seem like a vision of hell on water, but I sneakingly admire their dogged attempt to realise a

As we part, I shake Helen's hand and tell her: "Most people wouldn't be brave enough to do something like this." With a smile, she replies: "Or daft enough."

JAMES RAMPTON







Jeffrey Archer lives in a magnificent two-storey penthouse with views of the Thames

Elevated to the high life

Celebrities enjoy the security and privacy of a penthouse - and the stunning views, says Christine Webb

bought a penthouse flat Chelsea as his London perch earlier this year, he was following a trend in celebrity lifestyles. A pent-house offers wonderful views, generous living space and, most important of all for a celebrity, privacy. Most also have secure underground parking from which the owner can walk to a lift and press a priority button which will ensure he is whisked up to his floor without stopping.

In fact, three of the four penthouses on Mr Starr's block are owned by household names, though the selling agent signs a confidentiality clause to protect their identity.

Jeffery Archer famously lives in a magnificent twostorey penthouse with views up and down the Thames. Michael Caine has a virtual penthouse in the prestigious Belvedere block at Chelsea Harbour, where Elton John had a penthouse (which has just been sold through Chestertons for £1.1 million). Ken Bates, boss of Chelsea

hen Ringo Starr Football Club, is reported to be moving into a new penthouse built on the team's home ground at Stamford Bridge. In June, Spice Girl Mel B was said to have fallen in love with a penthouse apartment in The Village, Battersea, but lost out even though she made an

offer on the £575,000 threebedroom flat. She is since said to have fallen for Michael Caine's £2 million Oxfordshire mansion. There is good news for those who want to go up in the world: the number of penthouses in London is also

rising, as developers with an

eye to the premiums they

command are adding new ones to the top of existing blocks of both flats and offices. The most expensive of these are at Fountain House in Park Lane. Mayfair, where four substantial apartments were built on top of an existing block, the final one of which has just been sold through

Wetherell for £4.5 million. First Penthouse has come up with a nifty way of hoisting an extra prefabricated floor on top of blocks of offices or flats



Tall storeys help you rise above it all: Michael Caine, left, has a flat in a high-rise block at Chelsea Harbour

in 12 hours flat. This causes minimal disruption to occupants, and can bring them other benefits, says spokesman Simon Dawkins.

"We use timber-framed

modules designed in London and pre-built in a Swedish factory, now made possible by the strong pound. We test them in the factory, right down to whether the toilets flush properly. Then they are broken up and shipped over here and we lift them off the trucks on to the roof in a day. They are light but strong they have to be stronger than conventional structures to

withstand the journey." The company is also adding five penthouses to Albert Court, next to the Albert Hall, which will be completed next year. These apartments, which have CCTV security plus porterage, are about £1.8 million through Knight Frank and Hamptons International.

nother development is at St John's Wood Court, opposite Lord's cricket ground, where the company has built three penthouses and is adding another four. The first will be ready for occupation by Christmas, priced at E795,000, plus E30,000 for a

parking space. Michael Wilson, architect

and developer, has used a similar idea at Parkview Court, building 13 luxury penthouses, three of them duplex, on top of a five-storey mansion block on the southern end of the Fulham Road. One is still available through Hamptons

at £300,000. Galliard Homes has been adding floors to existing London warehouse and office blocks for four years, and in September released for sale 24 penthouses on the new eleventh and twelfth floors of the old Shell building in Lambeth. which it is calling the White House. All have terraces, and the flats range in price from £530,000 to £1.5 million. Here.

offices have been transformed into 397 apartments.

"As long as there are lifts the higher you go in a block. the more expensive the apartments," says Roy Conway of Galliard. "There are no problems adding on to existing buildings so long as you do it at the same time as converting the rest of the building, otherwise you delay occupation on the lower floors."

The company has built a floor atop Great Jubilee Wharf as well, for around £540,000. This is an 18th-century warehouse it is converting at Wapping Wall, where four penthouses have been created, all of which have roof terraces

PENTHOUSES FOR SALE

THE PENTHOUSE at 3a Palace Green, Kensington, is 3,600 glossy square feet of marble floor space, including a cinema room, on the seventh and eighth floors of a 1990s block. It has panoramic views across Kensington Palace and Kensington Gardens. It is on the market at £5.9 million through Strutt & Parker and Knight Frank. The service charges

alone are £38,504 a year. Views right over London are to be enjoyed from a penthouse on the fifth and sixth floors of the former Mount Vernon Hospital. Hampstead, which is being sold by Knight Frank at £2.1 million.

Hug queues lined up for the new flats available at the White House, the former Sheli headquarters on

Raising the roof: add an extra floor in 12 hours the South Bank, and now Galliard Homes (0181-508 8881) is offering a 2,000 square

foot duplex penthouse at £1.5 million. Penthouse 6, Bickenhall Mansions, Bickenhall Street, Marylebone, offers four bedrooms and two receptions rooms with excellent views towards Regent's Park. Plaza Estates (0171-724 3100) is seeking £1.3 million for it.

A penthouse designed by Piers Gough in Soho Lofts, Soho, has panoramic views of St Paul's Cathedral and Westminster, and a roof terrace big enough to contain a potted garden. Knight Frank is selling it at £1.25 million. A three-bedroom duplex penthouse at Jacob's Island, Butler's Wharf, is right on the Thames. Berkeley Homes (01959 561499) is selling it for £1 million.

The principal penthouse at Dunbar Wharf in Limehouse takes up the top two floors of a modern apartment opening on to a roof terrace giving almost 360-degree views of the river and London. Offers exceeding £1 million are being sought by FairBriar Homes (01753 655375).

The Angel on the Green, a new development in Islington, will be topped by four penthouses, the principal one being 2,800 square feet with a roof garden. Downstairs in the new block of 84 apartments built by Grove Manor Homes (0171-359 5259) is a gym, swimming pool and a restaurant.

and river views. It has also added just one magnificent penthouse to the Little Adelphi building, near Covent Garden, which it has converted from offices into flats. The penthouse has double doors leading on to terraces and is marketed at about £1.85 mil-lion by De Groot Collis.

Avril Butt, a spokeswoman for the company, says: "There are very few proper pent-houses, by which I mean a topfloor flat with good views a roof terrace on which to laze, some good ceiling heights which may allow for galleried space, and floor-to-ceiling windows. Celebrities love them because they offer privacy and

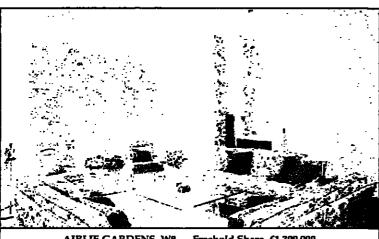
anonymity. When we do get good penthouses they tend to sell quickly." Goldschmidt and Howland,

Hampstead, is selling a penthouse that was once occupied by Peter Sellers. The £495,000 two-bed apartment is at Northwood Lodge, in Oakhill Park, just west of Hampstead village. It tops a luxurious block and despite being only six floors up, its large terrace offers such wonderful views across London that it might be on top of the world.

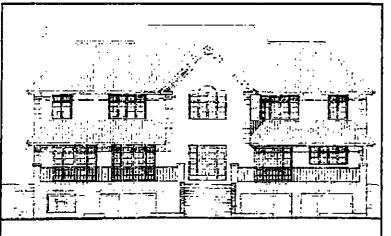
 Goldschmidt and Howland (0171-435 4404); Hamptons (0171-586 9595); Knight Frank (0171-629 8171); Galliard Homes (0181-508 8881); Wetherell (0171-493 6935).



OXFORD - Boars Hill Price Guide £295,000 An attractive house with a delightful 180 foot mature garden and far reaching views. here is planning for a first floor extension. 4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 3 recept kitchen and utility/cloakroom. OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522



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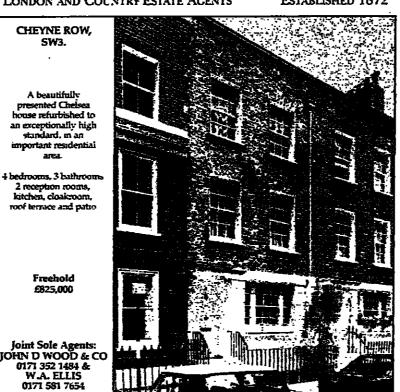
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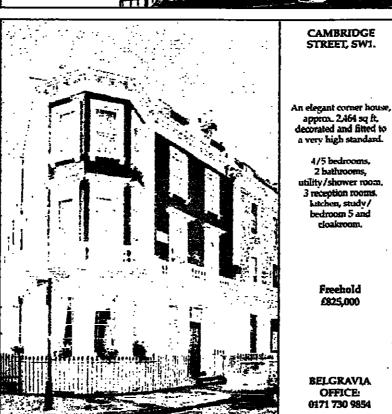
2 reception rooms, kitchen, cloakroom,

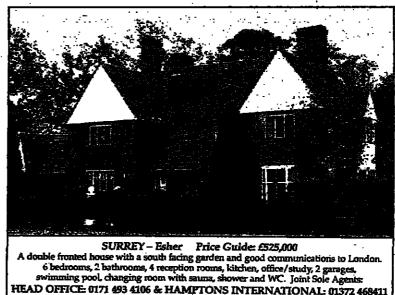
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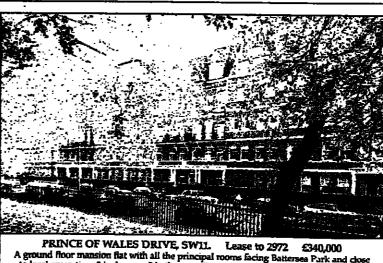
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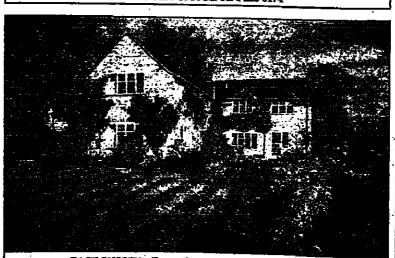




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of the river in Rattersea for better value. Demand for five or six-

bedroom Victorian terraced houses around Battersea Park, costing

from £350,000 to £750,000, forced prices up 37 per cent in the

first half of this year, says estate agent Douglas and Gordon. But

with more property on the market, purchasers are no longer prepared

A shortage of good country houses in Lancashire, within commuting distance of Manchester and Liverpool, is keeping prices high,

according to Smith Hodkinson McGinty. Fashionable areas include

Longridge, Parbold and Ormskirk, with easy access to the M6 and

Manchester airport, where a six-bedroom Georgian rectory in five

Stone cottages in the Forest of Bowland are popular second hom

45 minutes by fast train from King's Cross and a clutch of good

schools, Rutland, England's smallest county, is attracting London

Stonebuilt houses, with up to five bedrooms, costing from £350,000,

in villages around Rutland Water and the market towns of Oakham

Uppingham and Oundle, are highly sought-after, despite price gains of 15 per cent this year, says Savills. Large country houses in fox-hunting country around the Vale of Belvoir are also in demand,

priced from £500,000 for six bedrooms and up to ten acres.

This five-bedroom Victorian terraced house, with a self-contained

one-bedroom basement flat, situated by Albert Bridge with views

For the same sort of money, you could buy South Luffenham Hall,

a classic eight-bedroom Carolean house, near Uppingham, Rutland,

It comes with a sauna/gymnasium, tennis court, outbuildings and

2.26 acres of walled landscaped gardens (Savills, 01780 766222).

In Lancashire, you could afford Thurland Castle, a Grade II* listed

19th-century castle, surrounded by a most, in 13 acres of landscaped

apartments, a ballroom, billiard room, library, stabling, coach house,

groom's flat and a three-bedroom lodge (Strutt & Parker, 01423

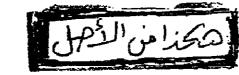
gardens, at Tunstall. It has five bedrooms, two self-contained

costing from £80,000 for three bedrooms. With Peterborough only

to pay inflated prices and values have levelled off.

acres would set you back around £400,000.

buyers looking for family homes.



A good bet for millionaires

Susan Sangster tells Rachel Kelly how she went

VD SATTERDAY NOVEMBER 20 16

HOUSES FOR SALE

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from pillar to post to turn her house

into a fitting home for a family

Susan Sangster bought their seven-bedroom house in Holland Park, west London, four years ago for about £3 million, it was a developer's delight — but

hardly the ideal family home. The essentials were in place - 20ft high ceilings, good proportions, and a basement swimming pool — but, in characteristic developer overkill, there were extra pillars in the drawing room, double doors, and far too many chandeliers for Mrs Sangster's understated style.

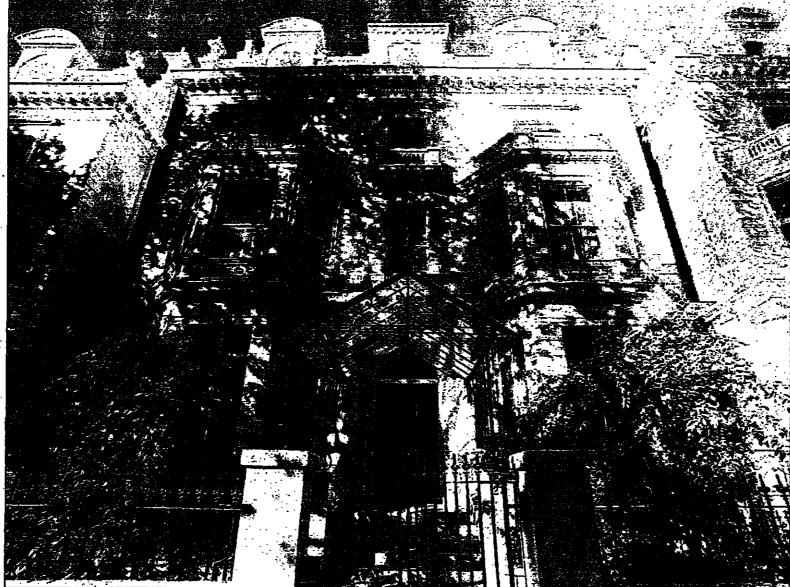
She knew what was needed to make it a suitable home for her three children and husband Robert, the millionaire racehorse enthusiast, whose father Vernon founded the the football pools company. Copies of the Bloodstock Breeders' Annual Review are on display in a glass-fronted cabinet in the drawing room.

The house wasn't to my taste when we bought it," Mrs Sangster says, "I wanted it to be almost like a house in the country."

A year of building and redecoration followed, with the help of the decorator Nina Campbell. "I liked her. I thought she would be very easy to work with - and she was. She made me feel as though the house was mine," Mrs Sangster says. "I thought she wouldn't take the whole house over, and she didn't. For example, if we were choosing fabrics, I might say I liked a particular pattern, and she would say, well perhaps this would be even better"."

The ground floor of the house, on the market for £8 million, has a creamy yellow drawing room to the left, knocked through to the back of to the right. The floor is in sisal matting... covered by muted, patterned it blue and white bedroom, once floral rugs in shades of green, a dark green billiard room pink, black and beige, bought at auction. The rugs proved the starting point for the to a series of interconnecting drawing room's decorating

"I wanted it to be the sort of room you could put your feet



Racehorse owner Robert Sangster and wife Susan have put their seven-bedroom house in London's Holland Park on the market at £8 million

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

up in, and it to not feel too formal." There are comfortable sofas and occasional tables smothered in glamorous family pictures.

Across the hall is a dining room-lined in midnight blue Benison fabric, "I always knew it was only going to be used in the evening, so I decided I would make a virtue of using a dark colour," Mrs Sangster says.

Her favourite room is her toile de Jouy papered bluefirst floor next door to her bedrooms, bathrooms and dressing rooms.

"I've got a television in one of the curboards," confesses



Day at the races: Robert and Susan Sangster at Ascot

walls are lined with pale cream wooden cupboards, with matching fabric behind

Upstairs is a floor of countrified spare bedrooms and bath-

Mrs Sangster. The bath is in rooms, bottles of Evian and the centre of the room, there is Hilldown to the ready, apart a beautiful fireplace, and the from one room that has become Mrs Sangster's gym, with her exercise schedule on the wall. There is plenty of sophisticated, understated chintz and some nice wooden bedsteads. The top floor hosts the nursery, and there are some elegant staff bedrooms.

> lift whisks visitors to the basement, where the Sangsters have made the most profound structural changes. The kitchen was entirely rejigged: now it is a cosy affair on the street side of the house, complete with an Aga...

The utility rooms were tucked under the pavement in what were originally coal holes when the house was built in 1890, and the former utility rooms made into a breakfast room. The changing rooms were re-sited.

There didn't seem much point to have changing rooms when our bedrooms were upstairs," Mrs Sangster says. "Oh, and I blocked in the wall to the pool, as no one likes being watched when they are swimming."

There is a playroom leading to the small garden at the



Floating asset: the secluded basement swimming pool

- only £29.99 incorpor

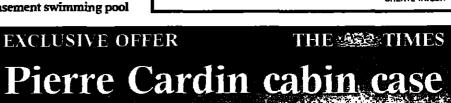
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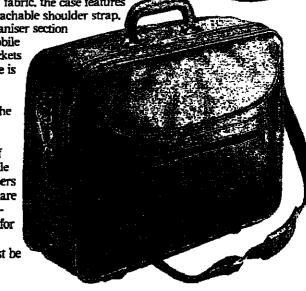
PRICES slip to the north of Orders for Christmas must be received by December 14.

The area to the west, bor-dering Brook Green around Elsham Road, is also good value. Here, a two-bedroom garden flat with a 60ft garden can be had from £180,000, as opposed to £350,000 a little further east in Holland Park and you get a residents' parking permit for Kensing-



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with full-depth pocket, mobile phone holder, five slip pockets and three pen loops. There is also an additional front pocket ideal for carrying travel documents. Inside the main compartment is another pocket for accessories and the rear of the case boasts a double file section and pocket for papers or magazines. All pockets are zipped and all fittings nonrusting. This case is ideal for



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CHANGING TIMES

RICH PICKINGS AT A GALLOP

Stan Clarke, chairman of Newcastle and Uttoxeter race courses and rags-to-riches millionaire, bought £5 million Dunstall Hall. Staffs (right), in June. He had his first job, as a plumber, at the Grade II listed, tenbedroom house, which is set in 1,000 acres.



Dubai and racehorse owner, has a 60-bedroom complex (left) near Newmarket racecourse. The £50 million property, built in 1992, overlooks the trainers' track and includes a gymnasium, swimming pool and

Sheik Al Maktoum,

the oil-rich ruler of

An abundance of natural light makes a long, hot soak in this bath a particular luxury





FOR WEALTHY international buyers who may not be especially familiar with London but know a prime address when they see one, Holland Park is a perfect hunting ground.

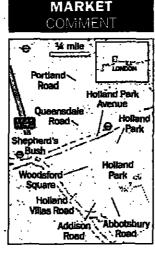
In terms of typical priori-ties, the area offers a wide choice of family homes, good schools and the leafy delights of Holland Park, with Kensington Gardens still within Dalmatian-walking distance. Add to that easy access to the West End and City via the underground's Central Line, a short run out to Heathrow airport - and you begin to smell serious money.

The 19th-century doublefronted villas on Holland Park itself (Addison Road and Holland Villas Road) are among the largest houses in central London, with prices and cachet to match.

They range from 6,000 to 12,000 sq ft (Notting Hill, in contrast, boasts little more than 4,000 sq ft), and on the rare occasions that they come up for sale, can command anything from £5 million (needing attention) to £8

As Rodriy Craggs of agent Knight Frank puts it: "There are probably no more than 20 people in London at any one time looking for that kind of house. Only two or three of these homes come up in a year, and they don't suit all

MARKET COMMENT



needs." But their rarity ensures a "waiting list". Part of the attraction is the

sheer expanse of ground they cover, in a city where space has always been at a premium; some have been split horizontally into vast "mai-sonettes", which still fetch £2 to £2.5 million.

"LATERAL living is big news at the moment," says Rupert Fisher of Poxtons. In comparison, the tall, narrow houses north of Holland Park Avenue on, for example, Portland Road and Queensdale Road, are "more suited for professional couples than families because they often only have small patio gardens and practically every room is on a different floor". Prices there for three bed-

back, but then the Sangsters

rather musty, rather small swimming pool. "Yes, that room does need decoration,"

Mrs Sangster admits. And

there is no garage, usually a must at this level in the market

Knightsbridge house more

convenient for Mr Sangster's office. Mrs Sangster sighs: "I am sad to be leaving."

● Agent: Knight Frank, Kensington office (0171-938 4311)

The couple are looking for a

also own a country house. The only disappointment of

rooms, two bathrooms and an abundance of entertaining space range from £650,000 to £1.25 million. Don't even think about

Holland Park houses unless you have £500,000 to spend. That might buy you a small mews property, or a brick-fronted family home in the 1960s Woodsford Square development - very good value but not perceived as architecturally beautiful", according to Mr Craggs.

Holland Park towards North Kensington, around Sirdar Road and St Ann's Road. where you can buy a modernised two-bedroom Victorian terraced house with garden for as little as £225.000; a four-bedroom house would set you back about £425,000.

ton and Chelsea, says Rupert Fisher of Foxtons.

FAITH GLASGOW

Top dogs add bite to home sales

ndividuals sell houses, not firms. Last year. The Times compiled a list of the country's top estate agents, responding to readers' requests to name the stars behind the agencies' banners. This year the list reflects the fresh talent in the business, altered slightly to embrace a top five, and then the honourable mentions.

Choosing just five involved a lot of heart-searching, but those we've included as bubbling under should take pride in their status. Again, we worked with buying agents, firms that deal with estate agents on a daily basis, because they act for buyers. The buying agents Property Vision helped us, so did Bedrock International and London Property Search.

Others helped, but asked for anonymity.

It has been a difficult year for agents. Prices have soared, yes, but agents rely on turnover to make their profit. The supply of houses for sale remains low. As Willie Gething, of Property Vision, says: "The market has been vendor-led. With so little property on the market, it takes an agent with courage to say: 'I'm afraid your house simply isn't worth it.' Inevitably, our list concentrates on the agents for more expensive

houses, because they are the ones known to buying agents. Often the names mentioned here work closely with other agents, less widely recognised but just as effective. As Jan Hassel de Jong, of Bedrock International, explains: "Agents who work closely with one another can

have a devastating impact."

Smaller agents also have stars among their staff. The best advice when choosing an agent to sell your house is to study the pictures in agents' windows and choose one with properties like yours.

There are more than a dozen new names on the block. These agents are renowned for getting the top price for properties, so bargain-seekers beware. The plus is that these names often have the best selection of houses on their books.

Because most agents work on commission on top of a basic salary, a good press is essential, especially where the market is competitive. In London, the top agencies share information after an initial "free for all".

BEST OF THE REST

IN THE "honourable mentions" category, women are better represented this year. Charlotte Mortimer, of Savills (0171-730 0822), won her spurs as the woman to contact if you are selling a £500,000 property in Chelsea, while Louise Hewlitt, of Aylesford (0171-351 2383) was credited with "never giving up on a deal".

Dick Ford, of Knight Frank (0171-938 4311), the man behind the £20-million sale of Aubrey House earlier this month, also gained massive approval. He is particularly effective at selling prime property in central London.

Alan Russell, of Russell Simpson (0171-225 0277), again emerged as a top deal-maker. Andy Buchanan, of John D. Wood's Chelsea office (0171-352 1484), continues to receive praise, though the firm has been taken over by Hambro Countrywide Financial Services.

New to the list is Robert Trindle (0181-767 2222), whose specialist areas are Clapham and Wandsworth. Mr Trindle and his eponymous firm, with 20 years'

experience, got top marks.

Still in Wandsworth, Rory Norman, of John D. Wood (0181-87) 3033) is another new entrant. He has connections which make him an able operator. Howard Elston, of Strutt & Parker (0171-629 7282) is new, too - reliable, shrewd and straightforward". Niall McMahon. of McMahon & Co (0171-792 2037) dominates North Kensington and Notting Hill, with an unrivalled knowledge and expertise in

Fiona Walker works from Savills' Berkeley Street office (0171-499 8644), and was cited as



"unchallenged in her field", dealing with top-end country proper-

In the country, Tommy de Malet Morgan, of Savills, Guildford (01483 576551), easily defends his place on last year's list. Another noteworthy survivor is Michael de Pelet (01935 812236), who offers an excellent service in Dorset. John Husband, of Humberts,

Lewes, East Sussex (01273 478828), retains his place among the elite. Patrick Bailey, of Strutt & Parker, Newbury, (01635 521707) specialises in Berkshire property. Also in Berkshire is the "excellent" Brenda Coates, of Dreweatt Neate (01635 38393). In Oxfordshire, Ian McConnell, of Savilis, Banbury (01925 263535) was tipped as a cut

For property in Wiltshire, Graham Waterton, of Strutt & Parker. Salisbury (01722 328741) gets top

marks, while Atty Boer-Roberts, of Knight Frank (01285 659771), is recommended for property in Gloucestershire. In Cambridgeshire. Bidwell's Jock Lloyd-Jones in Trumpington (01223 841842). (01323 288484). ranks highly. In Northampton-

properties won't go far wrong with Richard Jones, of Jackson-Stops & Staff (01604 32991).

Michael Dunning, of Lane Fox, Winchester, (01962 869999) was highly praised, as was Philip Blanchard, of John D. Wood's Winchester office (01962 863131). Further South, Conrad Payne, of

shire, those interested in smaller

457441), was cited for his skills in and around Canterbury. In the Cotswolds, Harry Clegg, if Clegg Kennedy Drew (01608 810335), is a new name, recommended for selling farms or estates

up to and above the £l million

Cluttons Daniel Smith (01227

mark. Robin Thomas, of Strutt & Parker, Exeter (01392 215631), covers Devon, Cornwall and parts of Somerset. Also in Somerset, try Richard Pawson, of Humberts

(01323 288484).

Ian Stirling, of Lane Fox, Ban-bury, (01295 273 592), has been described as "the best agent in north Oxfordshire". In Exeter, Martin Lamb, of Knight Frank (01392 493101) is highly recommended — again, as is newcomer Tim Page-Ratcliffe, of Strutt & Parker, Lewes (01273 475411).

There are new faces making an impact in Kent, where Martyn Phillips, of Phillips & Stubbs (01797 227338), scored top marks, while in Towcester, Northamptonshire. Peter Evans, of Bartram & Co (01327 359164), is noted as a significant threat to rival firms.

THAMES

Ian Stewart of Savills (0171-409

all-rounder" for the second year running, his knowledge of the Home Counties said to be unrivalled, while the top man in the shires is Geoffrey van Custem, of Savills, Chelmsford (0171-409 8880).

FURTHER NORTH, Tim Blenkin. of Blenkin & Co (01904 671672), works with Knight Frank, and is the person to contact for expensive estate sales in Yorkshire, especially in the Humbleton and Howardian Hill area. There were honourable mentions

too, for Tim Waring and Tony Wright, of Carter Jonas in Harrogate. (01423 523423). Edward Waterson, of Carter Jonas, York (01904 627436), was another agent collecting compliments. Scotland is better represented

this year. James Carnegie-Arbuthnott, of Brodies (0131-228 8883) was cited as "an exceptional -3777), is another new name, who

STAR PERFORMERS

Clockwise from top left:

■ THE BORDER COLLIE Patrick Ramsey, a partner at Knight Frank (0171-029 8171). Knight Frank (0171-0.29 8171).
Helped the agency put most of the top houses on its books, including Hackwood in Hampshire for £25 million. An Old Amplefordiam, married with three children. At home in the Hamp Countries home in the Home Counties.

THE DALMATIAN Andrew Langton, of the Chelsen agents Aylesfords (0171-351 2883). Has unrivalled contacts. Som of David Langton, the star of Upstairs, Downstairs, he is one of the smoothest operators around. Has three children

THE LABRADOR Linda Beaney of Beuney Pearce (0171-539 1333). With partner Nick Pearce, has cornered much of the market in new developments. Lives in Chelsea and is renovating an 18th-century Essex cottage. Professional and dedicated.

■ The English Springer James Laing, head of the rural division at Strutt & Parker (01635 521707). Cirencester Agricultural College

graduate, he has sold many of the country's finest estates. Lives in Berkshire and has two children. Sociable and loyal.

THE JACK RUSSELL David Forbes, partner in central London agents Chesterfield (0171-581 5234). The man behind several of this year's biggest sales. He served with the 10th Princess Mary's Own Gurkha Rifles in Asia before becoming a trekker in the Himalayas. Determined and

comes highly recommended for anyone wishing to sell estates in and around Edinburgh. Simon Rettie, of Rettie & Co (0131-220 4160), is another rising star, adept at finding houses in Edinburgh from £150,000.

Other top Scottish agents include Andrew Rettie, of Strutt & Parker (0131-226 2500), highly recommended for anything between £150,000 and El million; Jamie Macnab, of Savills (0131-247 3800); and Colin Strang-Steel, of Knight Frank (0131-225 8171), all of Edinburgh.

Angus Cheape, of Langley Tay-lor (0131-220 0576), once again drew warm reviews. Niall Graham-Campbell is from Finlayson Hughes (01738 625134), the only agency to have an office in inverness. He has carved out a niche selling Highland estates. Additional research by Neil

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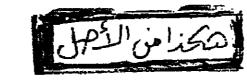
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'A swift change in the lottery rules is needed if conservationists are to make the most of the handouts'

on my own doorstep, but I would bet my last lottery ticket that it is also happening somewhere near you. It is a tale of dreams come true, magic wands being waved and wishes granted

- and it all ending in tears. I have always been a great supporter of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust, indeed all county-based wildlife trusts which derive their income from membership fees, fundraising and modest help from English Nature. Of all conservation groups, they view the landscape with a breadth of vision that more narrowly focused (and richer) charities seem unable to achieve. They do not consider only birds, mammals, the butterflies or the buttercups in isolation but the whole lot of them. Which has to be good news, if you happen to be a hairy but rare spider who has none of the beguiling qualities to elevate you to having a tea-towel market-

ing scheme dedicated to your survival. So, over the past couple of years it has been with great delight that I picked up the local newspaper to learn that our wildlife trust, among others, has been on

Why payouts don't always pay off

the receiving end of some very nice lottery handouts. The total so far is about It is much the same E) million, destined to help in the construction of education centres and the purchasing of valuable and endangered sites from under the noses of developers or acquisitive farmers.

Good stuff, you might say. Alas, not so. Along with many others, our wildlife trust is now finding that although a lottery handout may appear to be a blessing from heaven, it brings a hell of a lot of problems.

For a start, supporters who might have trudged along to a fundraising coffee morning or jumble sale now believe that the few pence they spend is insignificant compared with the huge sums awarded by the lottery, so they no longer bother. Members fail to renew subscriptions. thankful that the lottery has taken over responsibility for the wildlife, and so they need not bother. In our county, donations

are down 25 per cent. everywhere.

It gets worse, The money is not neces-sarily helping the trusts achieve what they were set up to do: conserve nature in all its forms. Our local director. Derek Moore, warns: "We are in danger of creating thousands of white elephants.' White elephants, of

course, are one type of wildlife whose survival and prolific breeding is never endangered in Britain. Let me explain how they are born, of public money and limited thought. It is not always understood, even by some wildlife trust supporters, that mere

DOWN TO EARTH



way guarantee its survival. Mr Moore points out that conservation requires action; inaction leads only to dereliction. It is all very well to buy 15 acres of water meadow bursting with every form of rare bog plant and insect, but it is another thing mak-

ing sure it stays that

way. It needs to be grazed, for example, which requires it to be fenced, livestock brought in and cared for, access for walkers to be arranged, vandals to be discouraged, neighbours to be negotiated with, weeds to be mown, chemicals avoided. Do none of these

ownership of some-thing does not in any things and you have an overgrown mess, and it will not be long before the first and it will not be long before the first rusty bedstead or broken fridge appears over the fence.

It is not the ownership of the water meadow which will keep it as we wish to see it - and the way the flora and fauna prefer it — but a regular input of labour, both behind a desk in the office and on

nd this is where the lottery lets wildlife down badly. And why, if there is not a swift change in the rules, much of the money handed out with the best of intentions for conservation will fund nothing more exciting than shabby tracts of countryside in the new millennium.

The problem has been pointed out many times, not least by the performing arts. The lottery is unable, because of its rules, to pay anyone's wages. It can fund capital projects, such as buying land, but the money cannot be used to employ someone to look after it. "All the money we get," Mr Moore explained to me, rebounds on the staff. They have more to manage but we have no money to employ any more people to help them. As well as being able to buy the land, we need a framework in which we can keep

I am not certain how it came to be that lottery money should never be allowed into workers' pockets. But who would object nowadays, especially in Mr Blair's people-centred Britain?

Would anyone really complain if it were widely known that the owl warden down at Buttercup Fen was paid for out of lottery money, instead of drawing the dole? If it needed a shepherd to husband a flock of grazing sheep, would you really mind if part of the money was spent on paying him or her?

Nobody is asking for more of the lottery money; just a stroke of the pen, so that wildlife trusts can spend it more sensibly. Otherwise it is like buying a car and flatly refusing to pay for the petrol.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney, Weekend, The Finnes, I Pentingual Speet, Lithage El 900. They are published on the first Saturday of the month.



Bang goes the old sport

few years after perfecting the art of the company takeover, and many years on from his childhood in the East End of London, the late Charlie Clore was invited to shoot at Blenheim. On the appointed day, things went well enough, until Clore sent a message to his host ("Bert", the 10th Duke of Marlborough). Would it be possible. Clore asked, for his instructor, a retired major who was acting as a loader, to lunch with the guns rather than the beaters?

"Teaching Clore to eat as well, is he?" Marlborough muttered in

A generation on, Clore might have felt more at ease with the new breed of businessmen at shoots. "I have seen one instance of a big deal being done in between two grouse drives," says a north country landowner. This chap was selling his milk business for more than £20 million. It

went through on the moor."

Once disdainful of Clore and his ilk often caricatured by the unwelcome shrill of the mobile phone on the moor — the grandees are now more or less equivocal: the gatecrasher, they have concluded, has his uses. He can, for a start, pay the price good shooting demands: £20-£25 a head per pheasant, or £80-£100 per brace

unashamedly use their companies as a means by which to mix business with pleasure.

"It can be banks, it can be estate agents who take a day," says the northern landowner. "In fact, you'd be hard pressed to find a bank which hasn't taken a corporate day in the past ten years. It's a fabulous way to entertain people. And from our point of view, if you can call it corporate entertainment you can legitimately claim back back VAT - 172 per cent on £10,000; it's worth doing, particularly on a big grouse day."

But today's corporate shoots are different to those of the late-Eighties Porsche-and-braces peak. It is unlikely anyone in the City now can trump the stories such as that told (in **Marcus Scriven**

reports on the fast-changing world of the

corporate shoot

his book Fiasco) by Frank Partnoy, a former derivatives trader on Wall Street, of how directors of Morgan Stanley treated themselves to a dove

shoot in Uruguay.

Deutsche Bank Group, the parent company of Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, has its own partridge shoot in Spain, said, by some, to be one of the best in the country. The bank also takes on several days' shooting in Britain each year.

t is hard to imagine any landowner belittling the contribu-tion corporate shooting can make to his estate's accounts; indeed, without it, he would be hardpressed to offer anywhere near as many days' shooting to friends and

But there is a price to be paid for having those along who are unfamil-Better still, from the landowners' jat with the ways of the country memorable corporate day in Bedfordshire recently. "The first drive had some partridge in it." he recalls. "One went out quite low and left. The left-hand gun shot at it, missed, and took out the back window of a Range Rover, which rather surprised the woman sitting inside.

The gun," he says, "admitted that he would have pretended that it was somebody else, except that was the only shot fired in the entire drive." Later, there were lots of jokes about

putting the Range Rover on the game card. But the barrister adds: "When I was young, you'd have been sent home for that. In these days of corporate shooting, it's just a laugh."

The owner of a comparatively

small shoot in Shropshire discovered

the difference between the corporate and private worlds when partridge shooting with clients in Cambridgeiling myself face down into the field," he says. "The gon to the side of me followed straight through the line."

The aim is a satisfying bag

It proved a formative experience. "I now invite clients I know can shoot," he says, "and I take them somewhere nice and quiet, not to one of the big corporate shoots."

But it would not be accurate to portray the contemporary shooting man as some kind of gun-crazed parvenu, who only ventures out of town to splash his boots with mud and spray the air with shot, just as it would be absurd to preserve the myth of his prewar predecessor, his sporting prowess matched by his pedigree

and eclipsed by his stupidity. The truth is that shooters are probably a more edectic bunch than

ever before; and most of the novices will, like Charles Clore before them. have taken care to receive good instruction (in London, probably at Holland & Holland's shooting grounds at Northwood).

You've got the old aristo brigade." one privileged gun says, "then you've got the bankers who spend hundreds of thousands of pounds; then you've got these little syndicates of the butcher, the baker and the candle-

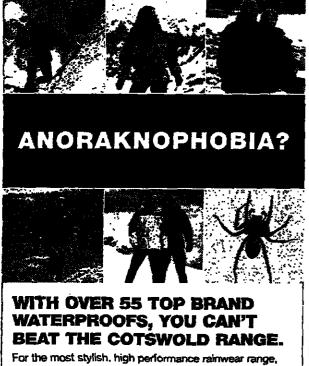
Perhaps there is no more vivid exemplar of the first group than Lord Lambton, who returns to Biddick Hall at Chester-le-Street, Co Dur-ham, from Tuscany for a few days sport, wearing his dark glasses and only stirring himself from his shooting stick for a particularly high bird. But even Lord Lambton, who

sometimes seems to have strayed from an Edward St. Aubyn novel, has never flinched from making money from shooting, letting Biddick to super-rich tenants such as Alfred Taubman, the owner of Sotheby's. They don't care what they're charged providing it's good," says one of Lord Lambton's guests.

The over-exuberant shot is nothing new. A septuagenarian recalls a story, doubtless apocryphal, concerning a youthful Lord Forte shooting partridge near London. His performance was said to have been erratic. "The following Monday, there meant to be six guns, but when he arrived, he was the only one there."

His son, Rocco Forte, by comparison, is considered an excellent shot and an exemplary host -- testimony. perhaps, to the power of shooting to affect the perfect evolution, from dealmaker to sportsman, within a generation or two. "He loves it with a passion," says one of his guests. "I think its the only thing he is passionate about really."

Perhaps the same was true of Sir Charles Clore, who, notwithstanding his experiences at Blenheim, felt assured enough to run his own estate. In the eight years up to and including 1978, 42,595 peasants were shot on his land in Berkshire. And there, his table marmers were his own affair.



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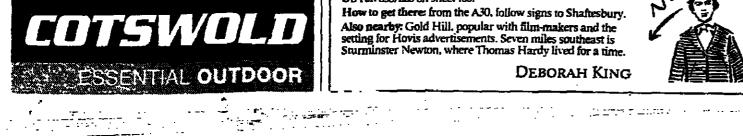
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a man or a mountain? lexander Stoddart, one

of Scotland's finest monumental sculptors. Rushmore, Andrew Morgan writes recently unveiled a two-ton bronze of the Scots philos-

opher David Hume in the heart of Edinburgh. But if his next project goes ahead it will dwarf anything he has done before. He plans to create a vast mountain sculpture on the magnificent Ben Bruachan massif in the Highlands which will be visible for miles around. The reclining figure of Oscar, dead son of Ossian, a legendary Gaelic warrior poet, will be half a mile long and a quarter

of a mile high. It would cost millions and take up to 50 years to complete, but would be Europe's biggest sculpture and a new wonder of the world on the scale of the Mount Rushmore National Memorial, in South Scotland may soon have its own Mount

Dakota, which attracts two million visitors a year. Ben Cruachan, to the east of Oban, is known as "the supreme mountain of Argyli" and its granite has a similar density to Mount Rushmore, where the four presidential heads were carved between 1927 and 1941. Ossian gained renewed

fame in Europe in 1762 when the Scotnish poet, James Mac-pherson, published what is claimed to be translations of his 3rd-century poems. Goethe became an admirer but, because of anti-Scots feeling in England, the poems were deemed fraudulent. London literati found it inconceivable that epic poetry could have

originated among the barbarian Scots.

Stoddart, 38, a passionate Scottish nationalist, says: Carving the mountain in Ossianic terms will be a way of insisting on the truth of the heroic capacities of Scotland."
Politicians at Argyll and
Bute Council are enthusiastic

about Stoddart's vision, which would bring much-needed employment to the area. Local people could be trained as sculptors or to carry out the task of shifting rock. Campbell Cameron, a coun-

cillor in the area, is thrilled. "It's remarkable there are still people with such visionary dreams," he says.

There remains, however,



An artist's impression of the son of Ossian sculpture

the question of landowners' permission. Several own the massif and the one owning Stoddart's preferred site says that, while sympathetic, he fears the intrusion. Diarine Stein, one of Scot-

land's foremost arts fundraisers, is confident that millions could be put in the hat for such a grand project from lottery and millennium cash and enterprise funding. The project would take long-

er than at Mount Rushmore, with its benign climate, where the sculptor, Gutzon Borglum, and his team created the 60ft heads of presidents George Washington, Thomas Jeffer-son, Abraham Lincoln and

Teddy Roosevelt. Stoddart says: "I hope to see part of the project completed. The Rushmore sculptor didn't live to see his work completed, but I'd die happy if everything were set up."



Sculptor Alexander Stoddart

ON THE SPOT: SHAFTESBURY ABBEY

Rural recommendations

The place in front of the abbey ruins, Shaftesbury, Dorset. The view: from this 700ft hilltop is a panorama of the Vale of Blackmore, with its gently sloping hills and fields. To the left, villages pepper the wooded landscape towards Cranborne Chase and King John's hunting lodge at Tollard Royal.

Appeal: scenic walks and surroundings. Aficionados: locals and visitors passing through the town.

Historic interest: the Benedictine Abbey for women, founded by King Alfred in AD 888, was once the largest in southern England. Excavations have revealed carvings and medieval floor tiles. The Stoney Path to the right of the abbey was the route taken by pilgrims. In the 19th century, the thriving button-making cottage industry of Dorset came to a dramatic close with the introduction of machines creating hardship among the locals.

OS ref: 858/228 on sheet 183.

How to get there from the A30, follow signs to Shaftesbury. Also nearby: Gold Hill, popular with film-makers and the setting for Hovis advertisements. Seven miles southeast is Sturminster Newton, where Thomas Hardy lived for a time.

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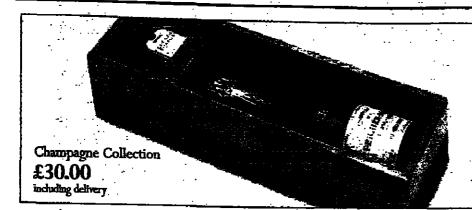
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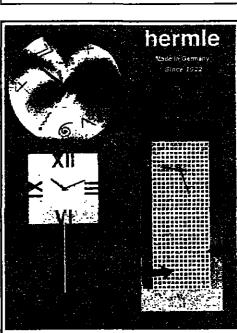
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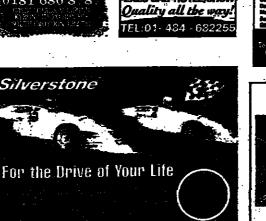


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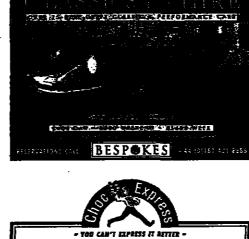


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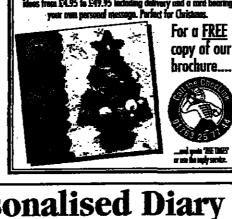
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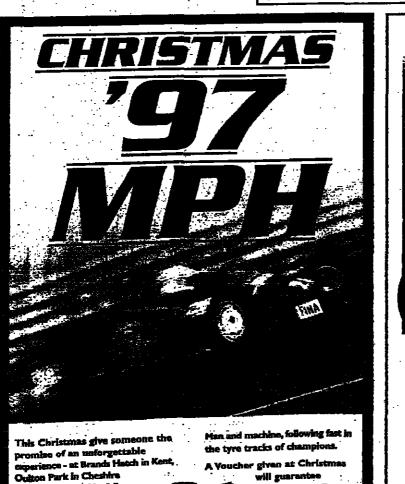


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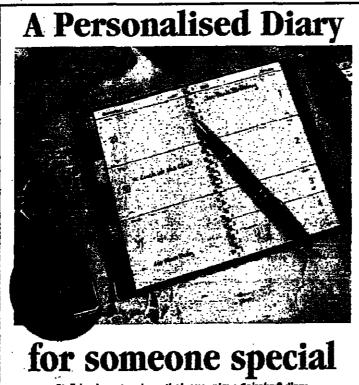
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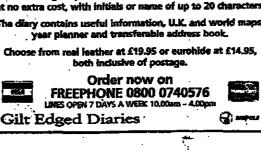
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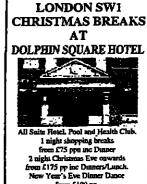


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Shubert's 150th Anniversary. Dys-lexia. a practical approach. Both this weekend at Braziers, Ipsden. Wallingford, Oxon (0149) 680221). All-inclusive, £92

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Post Impressionism. All this weekend at Missenden Abbey, Great Missenden, Bucks (01494 890295). Price £159 residential, £59 non-

Silversmithing, Bangles and Spoons Painting the Fruits of Autumn: Life Drawing, Viol Concert Music. All this weekend at the West Dean College, Chichester, Sussex (01243 811301). From £150 residential, E97 non-residential. Handbells in Harmony, Winter Landscapes in Watercolour. Christmas Decorations, Natural History Illustration. All this weekend at the Old Rectory. Fittleworth, Sussex (01798 865306). Prices from £114 residential, £90 non-residential.

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Skiing Workshops and Practice. Get ready for the slopes with a day or a weekend at the Calshot Activities Centre, Calshot Spit. Southampton (01703 892077). Price £45 per day, including equipment. Fell Walking Weekends in the Lake District. With Mountain Goat and Countrywide Holidays (0161-448 7112). From Grasmere to the more remote fells, Accommodation and transport included, prices from £133 per head.

A Guided Tour of the Universe: The Natural History of Christmas Reading Latin Documents. All this weekend at the University

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DECEMBER 12-14

tion. At the Ammerdown Centre, Bath, Avon (01761 433709). Prices from E69, all-inclusive.

The Natural History of Christmas, Winter Walks. Two outdoor

of Cambridge, Madingley Hali (01954 210636). Price £117, fullboard. Top-to-Toe Hair and Beauty:

Stained Glass: Lighting Design. Three courses this weekend at the Lancashire College, Churley (01257 260909). Price, all-inclusive. £96. We Were Amused. entertainment and leisure in the Victorian era; The Music of Spain. Two lively courses this weekend at the Old Rectory, Fittleworth, Sussex (01798)

865306), From £114. Handmade Chocolates for Christ-mas, A Christmas Bridge Party. Competitive Duplicate Bridge with partners for singles: Painting on Silk; You Too Can Sing. All this weekend at the Earnley Concourse, Chichester, Sussex (01243 670392). Price per course, E142 residential, E98 non-residential.

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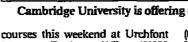
Tombs of the Pharaohs. Courses at Dillington House, Ilminster, Somerset (01460 55866). From £24 per day or £115 per weekend. Drawing for the Terrified. An introductory course at the Alston

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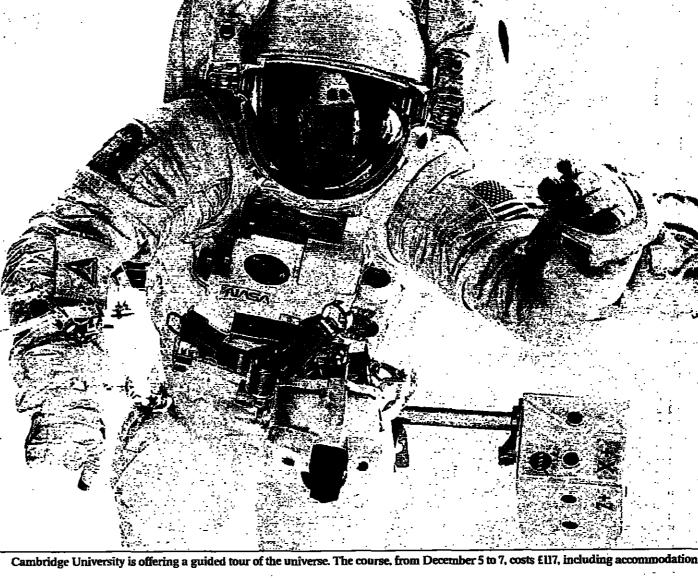
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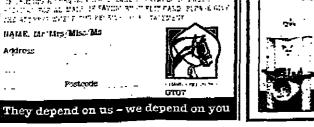
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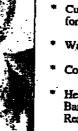


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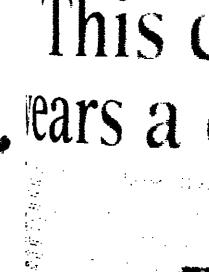
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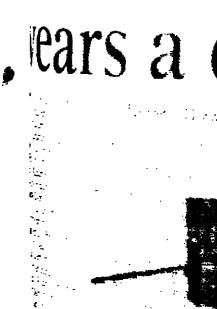
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A VET WRITES

Our three-year-old Bur-

mese cat lived indoors

All too soon those little iguanas, crocodiles and snakes outgrow the spare bedroom, says Carol Price

Help, my pet python is trying to eat me

ften, when I answer the phone, there'll be someone screaming in the background. Sarah Beales says. "The other night it was a man whose 6ft rock python, having bitten him, was trying to coil round and constrict him."

The snake's attack was a feeding response—but it had to go, says Ms Beales, of the Proteus Reptile

"In fact, 6h is quite small for a rock python," she says. "They can grow to more than 20ft and are notoriously temperamental and Unfortunately, this is not the sort

of thing that many would-be reptile owners know --- or are made aware of — when they first glimpse that cute little hatchling in the pet shop. Once they discover that the apparently easy pet which never needs walkies or elaborate grooming grows and grows - iguanas, for example, can expand from 6in to 6ft

in five years and have antisocial habits and rather specialised needs

the fun of reptiles and turtles seems to pall.

Hundreds of thousands of reptiles are being discarded every year, presenting a crisis for their researcher. cuers. Proteis alone rescues about 1,000 cold-booded cast-offs a year from all over the country — be they terrapins from Teesside, Burmese pythons from Scotland or iguanas which have have run arnok in

Cornwall. One of Proteus's more bizarre acquisitions was Amy the spectacled caymar — a 5 zft-long croco-dile which had been kept in a Bedford family's spare bedroom for

They were very fond of it, but it had outgrown its tanks and its welcome," Ms Beales says.



Cold-blooded creatures who may not be easy to live with: green iguana, above; pet python, right, cuddles up to the youngest member of the family

Proteus is keeping Amy in a 500-gallou heated pool, where she dines daily on rats, rabbits and chicks which you can buy frozen in bags from reptile stores, just like chicken

As expensive guests go, Amy is just one of a never-ending line.
"Even when we emphasise that we're completely full." Ms Beales says, "the next morning we'll find a rucksack full of snakes, turtles or lizards dumped on our doorsten."

London Zoo is being similarly inundated, "Hardly a week goes by when we don't get offered people's unwanted pets," says Dr Heather Hall, the zoo's expert on reptiles and amphibians. "The donors think they're doing us a favour, but we're in the business of conserving species, not rehousing them.



"People don't realise how big things like rep-tiles and turtles can 'Reptiles grow, or how long they grow very can live — well up to 30 rears, which outlives large and their role as children's pets. And their living can live environment, in terms of heat, light and humidity for up to levels, must be exactly correct, as must their 30 years'

Dr Hall and the Pet Advisory Committee are trying to predators. Fed-up owners then repromote a better understanding of leased them into lakes and rivers, more exotic creatures and their welfare among pet shop stores and managers - many of whom seem ignorant of their needs. Other people seem more interested in

diet, or they will get stressed and sick."

cashing in on a passing trend, with catastrophic

"About seven years ago, when the Ninja turtle craze exploded, everybody wanted to buy the equivalent red-eared terrapins from America," Dr Hall says. "They grew from the size of a 10p piece to that of a dinner plate, and be-came extremely aggressive and voracious

even though it's illegal and highly

"Now they are chomping their way through all manner of native species - fish, frogs, ducklings and



Australia; red-eared terrapin, below, imported from America



anything else that moves - right across Europe."

Iguanas can also turn nasty. "The trouble is really with the males when their breeding season arrives from February to July," Ms Beales says. Then they go from green to an orangey colour and basically want to mate with anything, should a female iguana not be available furniture, cushions, owners, you name it. Six foot of iguana hanging off your neck by its teeth and attempting to mate with you can freak out a lot of owners."

Ms Beales and her colleagues have 30 male iguanas on a waiting list for rehoming, "so we were hardly glad to hear that another 20,000 iguanas have just been imported into this country from South America".

Ms Beales also warns against people who call themselves "reptile rescue agencies" but make a business out of getting unwanted pets free to sell them on. Too many people think reptiles are pets you can easily replace, should they get sick or tiresome." she says. "It's wrong to think you can keep them properly on the cheap."

he gave a rough estimate of the costs you could expect to pay: "A small lizard might cost £7.50, or a baby python £25, but then you have to buy a decent enclosure that can cost £50 to £2,000, and spend at least another £100 for a thermostat, ultraviolet lights and fittings plus a heater. Sometimes we get reptiles in with terrible burns just because owners couldn't be bothered to spend £2.50 on a heater guard."

Despite the neglect and ignorance of some owners, both Ms Beales and Dr Hall concede that a great many people do look after their reptiles extremely well. But their success is the result of tremendous effort, education and commitment.

Those who lack the time or will for all three may be better off with something simpler like goldfish — which, thankfully, have never been known to swing off your neck by

 Proteus Reptile Rescue (0121-384 6033) offers reptile advice but needs donations to continue its work. London Zoo (017)-722 3333) has leaflets



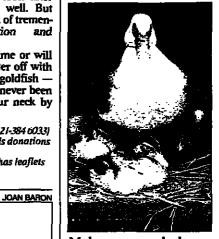
tree if he is left to his own devices. Rescuers, be they

I am sure your Burmese

as sure that he will find his way down from the highest

professional firefighters or enthusiastic amateurs, don't help. He is much more likely to fall and injure himself with human help than if he is left to his own devices. If he appears to be trapped up a tree, wait until it is dark, then use a powerful torch to encourage him to follow the beam down from one branch to another. Or just ignore him. Many years ago, one of my cats had an insatiable ambition to get on to the roof of our bungalow. I climbed a ladder and "rescued" him a score of times. Then I got fed up and this coincided with his learning how to get down on his own. suspect your cat will respond in the same way.

We have just moved to an old farm with a paddock and a large pond, nearly half an acre. We would like to keep ducks and



Make sure your ducks are safe from foxes

perhaps some ornamental water fowl. We have always kept pets but don't know much about birds outdoors.

A You have the beginnings of a paradise for ducks: space and water. Start in the spring with one of the "common" breeds: Aylesbury, Khaki Campbell or Muscovy. They will need a daily feed of cereal mixture from the local corn merchants. Evening is the best feeding time, to persuade them to come home, and the dining area should be close to the pond. Do not encourage ducks to come to your back door. Duck drop-pings are profuse, liquid and smelly. Shutting ducks in a substantial wooden shed overnight, with straw for bedding. helps to foil foxes. And if you want eggs, let the birds have a lie-in. Ducks lay in the early morning, so by 10am there are eggs on the floor waiting to be collected. An alternative antifox system is a raft with a basic shelter and a few water plants. Attach a rope to each bank so it can be brought to the shore or towed to mid-pond. Ducks sleeping or nesting on this platform are quite safe.

I live in an isolated cottage and I have been burgled twice. I have heard about wolf hybrids - crosses between wolves and German shepherd dogs. Are there any special difficulties about keeping them?

A Before buying a wolf hybrid you need a licence under the Dangerous Wild Animals Act. This requires the local council to be satisfied that you will keep the wolf hybrid in an adequate, escape proof kennel and run; that you have third-party insurance, and that your premises are inspected every year by a vet and an officer of the council. The licence fee and insurance can cost £200 a year. A wolf hybrid cannot be kept as a house dog, or taken for a walk on a lead. I do not know why anyone breeds them. Too many finish up having a boring, lonely life. The best guard dog is one that barks when a stranger approaches, but is friendly and affectionate. The only risk is that he - or she - might lick an intruder to death. But a burgiar cannot be sure and the bark is enough to persuade most potential intruders to try their luck elsewhere.

JAMES ALLCOCK

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This cat lady wears a dog collar

he world of Philip Gonzalez is populated by dozens of colourful characters, such as the flirtatious one-eyed, redhead Revion; the paranoiac Vogue Madame, the deaf snow-white beauty; the crippled Betty Boop; the Count of Monte Cristo, an aristocratic Russian; the monstrous Napoleon; and Prince Philip, who is infected with Aids.

At four every morning and seven every evening, the hum-ble Puerto Rican-born New Yorker makes his rounds of the back alleys of Long Beach. Long Island, to feed 140 stray cats. Those who eat in the backyard of a friendly local house he has given Viking names. Thor, Eric the Red, Oscool and so on On the Osgod and so on. On the wasteland nearby are the painters: Dali, Picasso. Grandma Moses and Peter Max. On the traffic island live the Cowloys and Indians: John Wayne, Roy Rogers, Crazy Horse and Sitting Bull. Then there is the scrub land called Paradise, inhabited by Rhett and Scarlett, Aunt Jernima, Unrie Ben and Van Gogh. Mr Conzalez, 47, is a grizzied Vietnam veteran who used to practise martial arts

until helost the use of his right arm in an industrial accident. But he ias the gentleness of St Francis of Assisi, and the same affinity with the animal world. He lives a simple existence on his disability allowance in a modest first-floor flat near the Atlantic Ocean, which he shares with 21 cats and his best friend, Gruny, a dog.

However, Ginny is not just any dog. The straggly little cross-breed, whom Mr Gonzalez savel from an animal shelter, is now one of the most famous cogs in America. Mr Gonzalez sees her as "part James Bone meets a one of

America's most famous dogs and

her posse of rescued cats



Stray cats are rescued in Mr Gonzalez's nightly patrols

schnauzer, part Siberian husky, part angel from heaven", and credits her with giving him a purpose in life. For Ginny is The Dog Who Rescues Cats — the title of Mr Gonzalez's biography of his extraordinary pet, which has just been published in Britain after becoming a bestseller in the United States. Ginny has a remarkable ability to seek out and rescue stray cats, whom she then adopts as though she were a feline herself. It was

She gets extremely persistent when she sees a cat. In February 1991, a pipecutting machine at a building site where he was working nearly chewed off Mr Gonzalez's right arm. No longer able to work, he retreated into himself. Concerned that he was sinking into depression. his neighbour, Sheilah Harris, persuaded him to visit the local animal shelter. A dog. she thought, would at least get

Ginny who brought all the

"I think she was either

raised by cats, or maybe in a

previous life she was a cat, or she could have been a cat-lady.

feeding strays," Mr Gonzalez says. "It really impresses me.

cats into her master's life.

him out of the house. The former soldier wanted a "big dog" that other people would envy. Inside a cage he saw what he thought was a German shepherd puppy. The vet informed him, however, that the dog was a year-old mother who had recently been spayed, and was a mixed breed that had already reached its full size. Nevertheless, it was love at first sight.

As Mr Gonzalez recalls in

his book: "She had a long, skinny body and thin, crooked legs, which were oddly matched to the broad-shouldered front of her . . . That dog had the most appealing face I'd ever seen, bright and intelligent and curious and sweet, all at the same time."

Even with a published biog-raphy, Ginny's life story will never be fully known. Originally, she belonged to a woman with three children who spent her welfare cheque on drugs. When the woman was evicted from her flat, the landlord found a scruffy, emaciated Ginny locked in the cupboard nursing a litter of three pups. The woman had left the dogs to die. Mr Gonzalez identified with this wounded animal. Like her, he had been badly hurt. Yet she, who had suffered not merely an accident but deliberate human neglect, held no ran-

itting on his balcony, Mr Gonzalez admits that Ginny changed his life. I was just staying indoors, really completely depressed, and then I got Ginny and started going out and then saving the cars gave me a purpose," he says. "She saved me. I was her first

Not only does Ginny still yap contentedly at his ankles as his cats swarm around his feet, but the gutter above his head is lined with pigeons who know they can depend on him for a meal of dried cat-food. Lurking somewhere nearby are the raccoons and opossums that he also feeds on the balcony at night.

Ginny first revealed her talent for rescuing disabled cats during a walk early one morning. Passing an empty lot, she flew off her lead and ran towards a golden kitten. Instead of mauling the little stray, Ginny started licking it like a mother, making the cat purr happily. At one point, the kitten actually jumped on Ginny's back for a ride.

Sensing that Ginny wanted to feed her new friend, Mr Gonzalez opened a can of dogfood. That was the start of a new vocation that now costs him \$120 a day in cat-food alone, and can require thousands more to pay the vet. For instance, he spent \$4,200 on surgery for the Count of

Night after night, day after day, Ginny and her master

Made for each other. Ginny the mongrel and her owner share a flat with 21 cats patrol the backstreets of their neighbourhood, retrieving stray cats. First, the deaf Madame moved in to Mr Gonzalez's one-bedroom flat. Then Vogue, Revion, Betty because his dog kept rescuing Boop and Topsy, who suffers from cerebral palsy, and Tiger, Spot, Caesar, Pinky and Princess, and Sheba (who became Solomon when it be-Ms Wilbourn told a friend at Good Housekeeping maga-

came apparent "she" was a prompted the book, co-written tom-cat) and the two cats with Leonore Fleischer, which called Camus, and Darlene has now gone through ten and the rest. Ginny's story first came to printings in America and been the public's attention when Mr followed by a sequel, The Blessing of the Animals. Mr Gonzalez went to an evening class in Manhattan on "How Gonzalez recently signed a to Talk to Your Cat". Betty contract to turn Ginny's story Boop, named after an Ameriinto a Hollywood film. can cartoon character, was refusing to use the cat litter and was urinating on the

carpet. Mr Gonzalez wanted to

find out why. (It turned out

that she had injured back

paws which hurt when she

The day I visited Mr Gonzalez, he had just saved a litter of five kittens from an early death at the hands of a local vet. With typical aplomb, he named them after the Marx Brothers: Harpo, Chico,

Gummo, Zeppo and Groucho. "Every time I help one out, I trod on cat litter.) Carol Wilbourn, a "cat therapist", asked feel stronger inside, especially the class how many cats they when I save a life." he each had at home. Mr Gonzalez consessed that he had eight, declared.

Later, we took Ginny for a walk to the Paradise scrubland. Loosed from her lead, the little mongrel galloped zine, who sent a reporter and through the grass towards a photographer. The article, published in June 1994. tri-coloured calico cat who came to greet her. The stray was Van Gogh — although he must have been an early Van Gogh because he still had both ears. The two kissed nose to nose and then Van Gogh settled down for Ginny to groom him.

"If people got along the way Ginny gets along with cats." Mr Conzalez observes, "there wouldn't be any wars and the world would be a much happier place." ■ The Dog Who Rescues Cats is published by Simon & Schuster, £9.99

greyhound-cross-labrador who was brought into the RSPCA after his owner developed health problems and could no longer keep him. He is playful, but gentle with children and other dogs and would make a good family pet.

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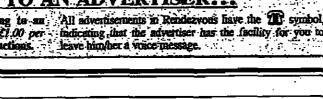
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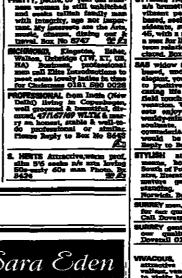




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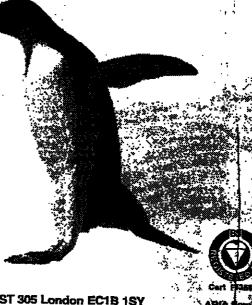
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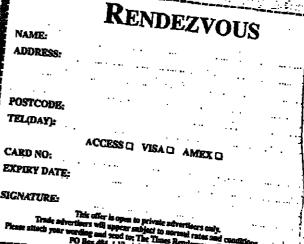
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t is claimed to be the original Garden of Eden it is the land of Mount Ararat, the 17,000-foot peak where Noah's Ark came to rest and it was the world's first officially Christian state. Armenia, first evangelised by the apostles Bartholomew and Thaddeus, became Christian in 301 thanks to St Gregory, who arrived from Caesarea, converted the King after 15 years of imprison-ment, and became known by Armenians as the "Great

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Dluminator". This month, the head of the Armenian Apostolic Church visited the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey. His Holiness Karekin I, born Neshan Sarkissian in northern Syria, studied theology at Oxford and is fluent in English, Armenian, French, Arabic and Turkish.

The first thing you notice about him is his black Armenian pointed cowl, which gives Karekin a rather pixie-like demeanour. It is called an "ararat", he explains. "It is worn so that the devil cannot dance on your head."

Catholicos Karekin, 65, has the air of a prophet issuing stark warnings about the about the advance of material ism. "Secularism and consumerism are reaching extremes where God is being eliminated from the concept of life itself,"

Karekin is steeped in the history of his nation and his church, a church which split from what became mainstream Christendom because its leaders were unable to attend a crucial conference. the Council of Chalcedon, in 451 when Armenia was being invaded by hordes of Zoroastrian Persians.

Their absence meant that, along with some of the world's oldest churches, they have stuck to the credal definition of God Christ worked out at Ephesus two years earlier, one nature united in the Word Incarnate", leaving the rest of us to grapple with the Trinity. The Armenians can-

Religion has often served social and political functions. As such, it has been celebrated by

partisans of both right and left. Social

conservatives recognise the value of a

sense of the transcendent in sustain-

ing those pieties towards the past and

obligations to the future that are

essential if traditional morality and

invoke Judaeo-Christian ideals of

the disadvantaged against the politics of possessive individualism.

ideas can quite properly be invoked in support of social philosophics, and the previous appeals are interesting

examples of this, but religion is not

This is all well and good. Religious

Karekin I, head of the Armenian Church, is a man with a mission to save his embattled people



not be neatly labelled Orthodox, Catholic, Monophysite or anything else. They can only be called Christian.

Karekin's eyes twinkle as he sits in the sumptuous surroundings of Lambeth Palace despite being one of the oldest in the business, the Armenian church is extremely close to the Church of England, one of the youngest.

e speaks sadly, but without bitterness, of the decades of communist rule -Armenia was swallowed up by the former Soviet Union after centuries of oppression by the neighbouring Turks and oth-ers. He also warns that Europe has been at the centre of a "world quake", that so much has changed in the past 15 years that we are all falling victim to a sort of mental and spiritual indigestion.

Armenia was formerly a Soviet Socialist Republic. Before that it was variously subject to to Tsarist, Ottoman and Turkish rule. It has been in the news recently because of more fighting, this time over the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh which the Armenians, who have lost so much, could be forgiven for wanting to hang on to.

Karekin does not beat the nationalist drum. Not a single anti-Turkish sentiment leaves his lips, even though in the

early years of this century thousands of Armenians were massacred, and a third of all Armenians were exterminated by the Turks in the First World War. And in spite of the troubles of the Lebanon, his years spent there leading, comforting and supporting his expatriate community, have not deflected him from his primary mission: to renew the life of his church by relating gospel teachings to the 6.5 million Armenians who make

Centuries of persecution resulted in a diaspora which has seen millions of Armenians living abroad, in America, France, Britain and elsewhere. But they have remained socially and culturally united, a cohesion credited to the Armenian church — which also helped in the home country during the communist years.

up his flock.

Karekin says: "Now that there, is a disenchantment about communism, the Christian faith is the deepest inspi-ration of the people. It is in their history. Whenever they read their history, whatever page or stone they turn, there is the Christian imprint. It is impossible to speak of Armenian culture without speaking of the Christian faith."

Of all the world's church leaders, Catholicos Karekin has proved himself one of the most ardent in seeking the unity of the gospel commands. His concern about the advance of materialism, the latest army to lay seige to his embattled people, is one of his motivations. "No single church can face this challenge alone." he says, "neither the Koman Catholic, nor the Orthodox, "neither the Roman nor the Anglicans, nor any other Protestant or Free church. This challenge has to be faced with togetherness."

RUTH GLEDHILL



Karekin I of Armenia with Dr George Carey, Archbishop of Canterbury

Why we should follow the example of the saints

social order are to be sustained. through which grace flows is Meanwhile, the advocates of redistributive taxation and of state welfare holy persons. This raises the old question of how one ma identify such persons. The universal brotherhood and care for equally ancient answer to which ("by their fruits") is that we may do so by looking at their lives, in particular their attitudes to, and their works for, the poor in body, mind and spirit, and by their discem-

itself a form of politics, and nor are ment and spiritual wisdom. There is a contemporary tendency social mores or justice forms of, or adequate substitutes for, salvation.

The true purpose of religion is to sanctify or make holy. This is achieved in a variety of ways but to use the term "saint" to refer to anyone whose life and works are especially favoured, particularly if they have been the object of criticism. always through the grace of God. One of the important channels Yet true sanctity is a rare and precious feature in human life. How





many such people there are is hard to determine, since holiness and public renown do not sit easily together.

Certainly there have been holy men and women famous in their own lifetimes: St Francis of Assisi. St Catherine of Genoa and John Wesley are among the many examples. But they also belong to less cynical ages they found them and did not rush to debunk great figures as self-promoting hypocrites. The most common message of the saints is to give yourself to God and to look after

people in need. The lesson of history, however, is that those who have most deeply loved and served their fellows have also loved and served God.

There are two important reasons for this. First, the task of caring for others is often difficult and sometimes dangerous; it requires deep conviction, and religion can provide this. Second, and more importantly. the love of others may flow out of a love of God. I do not mean that others

are loved for the sake of God, as if the concern were not for them as such. But rather, that a religious under-standing of the sort possessed by the saints provides them with a vision of what human beings really are, namely "images of God".

Saint John of God was born in Portugal in 1495. Having been a servant he became a soldier and then a shepherd. By stages he grew deeply troubled by his neglect of God, sold all his possessions and gave himself to a life of prayer. As his biographer writes, "he died to the world". Others judged him mad and he was confined to an asylum. When he was freed and he worked relentlessly for the poor. in whom he had come to see the animating presence of Christ. His teaching to those who followed him was simple: "Labour without inter-mission to do all the good works in your power whilst time is allowed you". It is a saintly injunction that we would do well to follow.

■ John Haldane is Professor of Philosophy at the University of St Andrews.

Local boy makes good



Ruth Gledhill

admires the style of preacher of the year

THE PREACHERS, three men, two women and all Anglican, sat in the front row, looking nervous. This was the climax of the third Preacher of the Year award, Preachers and sponsored by The Times.

in the past two years the award has been won by men. Father Bill Anderson. of Aberdeen, and the Rev Barry Overend, of Leeds, were among the judges, as was Ernie Rea, head of religious broadcasting at the BBC; Joan Bakewell, writer and broadcaster, was chairman.

Some of us were praying for a woman to win this year. Sadly, in spite of the excellence of the sermons of the Rev Sally Chapman, of Willenhall, West Midlands, and Gill Green, of Newmarket, Suffolk, the only lay person in the final, this was not to be. Durham Cathedral was built as a shrine to St Cuthbert, who did not have much time for women. To deliver their sermons, the preachers had to climb high into the pulpit, and to get there they had to cross a Purbeck marble line near the font. It is said that in medieval times, women were not allowed beyond this line. Maybe St Cuthbert had a hand in the result.

It was the local boy who won, much to the delight of many in the congregation. Not only did the Rev Paul Walker, born in York and serving as priest-in-charge of a newly founded church in Moorside. Sunderland. have the advantage in preaching last - after four sermons it is always a relief when the fifth is at hand but he was by far the most entertaining, his levity leav-

ened by the necessary moral and spiritual points. We were welcomed by the sub-dean. Canon Michael Perry, and the Bishop of

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Durham, the Right Rev Michael Turnbull, said the bidding prayer: "We pray preaching of truth. We ask that they may be given holy intention. integrity of mind and freedom in the spirit that they may declare the truth boldly."

All five preachers had been invited to speak on "holiness". After the two women preached, both of them capturing and holding our attention with ease, it was the turn of the Rev Neville Manning, of Newhaven, East Sussex. This was all in a day's work for Mr Manning, who delivers as many as four sermons on

Next in the pulpit was the Rev Michael Parker, Rector of St John and St Leonard in Bedford. Holiness is about an "otherness" that is real and can be known, he said. In the face of the holiness of Christ, we all long to have the grime of our lives

All the sermons were wonderful examples of holiness in action and by the end I felt a tiny bit holier than I had at the start.

Durham Cathedral, Durham, DHI 3EQ (0191-386 4266). Entries for next year's Preacher of the Year can be submitted. preferably in manuscript form. to Ruth Gledhill at The Times.



The Rev Paul Walker: spiritual but entertaining

Church services tomorrow

ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; II M. Canon F D Swann; 3.15 Ch E. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; II S Euch; 3.30 Ch E, Walmisley in

BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL 9 MP. 9.15 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Stainer in A, Canon G

O'Neilt 4 Ch E.
BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15
Ch M; 10.30 Euch, Coronation Mass
(Mozart; 4 Ch E, Canon Galilee.
BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, 11 Euch,
Canon P Jackson; 3.30 E, Stewart in C. BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch: 3.30 Ch E. Stanford in C. CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M; 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Canon C Hill; 3 E.

CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30
MP, 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 1L:15 S Euch; 6 Ch E,
Responses: Rose, Canon M Proctor. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M: II S Euch; 3.30 E. Goss in E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL. Dublin: II S Euch, Messe Solemelle (Langlais); 3.30 Ch E.

CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Oxford: 8 HC; 10 M, Short Service (Byrd), Canon Ward; 11.15 S Euch, 6 E. COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP; 8 C: 10.30 Euch, Messe cum jubilo (Duruflé); 3 German & Polish Lutherans; 5 Ch E. DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart); 6 E. Ven

DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; ILIS HC, Darke in F; 3.30 E. ELY CATHEDRAL: 815 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 3.45 E sung by The Plantol Scholars. EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S

Euch; 11.15 M. Responses: Rose; 3 E. Stanford in G; 6.30 ES, Rev Dr D Ison. GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch; ILi5 M; 6.30 E, Sumsion in G, Rev HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC. 10

Euch, Missa Eliensis (Wills): 11.30 M, Britten in E; 3.30 E. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Ch M, Stanford in B flat, Ven H Jones; 12

LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Jackson in G: 3.30 E. LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 L: 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL 8 MP & HC: 10:30 Euch: 3 Ch E: 4 HC.
LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: 7:30 M & L:
8. 9 Euch: 11 S Euch, Ireland in C; 12:15
Euch: 3:30 Ch E: 6:30 E & Sermon, Rev R C NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch, Jackson in G; 6 Ch E. NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for 3 voices (Byrd); 6.30 Ch E. Noble in B minor, Canon T Palmer. NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP: 8. 9.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Schubert in G; 3.30 Judge's Service; 6 EP; 6.30 Euch.

PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9.30 M; 10.30 Euch, Sumsion in F; 3.30 E.
PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 C, Canon D Issac, 11 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells); 6.30 E. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 M; 10.30 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Langlais); 3.15 Memorial E for Canon R

Mason.

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 Euch; 11.30 M; 3 Ch E, Collegium Magdalensis (Leighton); 6 Taizé Service.

SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP; 10.30 S Euch, Darke in F; 6.30 E. SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch; 11 Ch Euch; 3 Ch E, Coventry Service SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.30 M & L: 8

HC; 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Jackson in G, Canon P N Humphreys; 3.15 E. TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M; 10 S Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi (Palestrina); 5 EP: 6 County Service for Youth Sunday. WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C: 11 Solemn Euch, Missa Brevis (Leighton), Canon R Gage, 4 E.

WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M. Canon D Hutt; IL15 Euch, Schubert in G; 3 E. Magdalen Service (Leighton); 5.45 Organ Recital; 6.30 E. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9

Mass; 10.30 Solemm Mass, Messe Solennelle (Langlais); 12 Mass; 2.45 Organ Recital; 3.30 Sol V & B; 5.30, 7 Mass. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M; ILIS S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart); 3 11.15 S Euch, Coronation Mass (Mozart); 3 Service to Commemorate HM the Queen's Wedding Anniversary - ticket only; 5.30 E. YORK MINSTER: 8, 8.45 HC; 10 S Euch, Mass in 4 parts (Byrd); 11.30 M; 4 E. ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL Hertford-

ST ALBANS CATHEDRAL Heriford-shire 8 HC; 9.30 Euch; 11.15 M, Responses; Leighton, Caron Ritson; 6.30 E. ST ANDREWS CATHEDRAL, Aberdeen: 8 HC; 10.15 S Euch, Harwood in A flar, 6.30 ES, 5th Service (Tomkins). ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC. II Ch M. Psalmen Davids (Schült; 3.30 EP. ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 HC, 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; 11.15 Ch Euch, Stanford in C & F, 6 Ch E. The Dean. ST EDMUNDSBURY CATHEDRAL: 8
HC; 10 S Euch, Rev R Davey; 11.30 Ch C,
Darke in F; 3.30 Ch E.

ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL, SEI: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Solemn Mass; 1.30 Mass; 5 EP & B: 6 Mass. ST GILES CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8, 10 HC: 1L30 MS, Rev A R Morton; 6 Oban

Bach Choir; 8 ES. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch: 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E. Gibbons

SERIER: 1030 SERIER: 3.50 CH E. GIDDORS
Short Service.
ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow:
8.30 Euch; 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 3.30-5.50
Diocesan Youth Service; 6.30 Ch E.
ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old
Aberdeen: If MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 ES.
ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin:
8.30 E-15 July 15 M B. 10 July 8.30 Euch in Lady Chapel; II.15 M., Rev R J Riddel; 3.15 Ch E, Wood in F. ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 8.45 M;

Il S Euch, Missa Christi (Leighton); 3.15 E, Stanford in A: 5 Organ Recital. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHE-DRAL, SW7: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polyphony, Met Anthony.
ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; II
HM; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B, Worcester Service (Howells), Rev N Mercer.

ALL SOULS, WI: 8 C; 9:30, 11:30 MP, Rev P Blackham; 6.30 EP, Rev Dr J Stott. THE ASSUMPTION, WI: 11 MS, Mass for 4 Voices (Byrd). CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC;

10 Children's Service: 11 M, Rev Dr P Elvy; 12.15 HC: 6 E, Rev D Bean. CROWN COURT CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, WC2: 11.15 MS, Rev A McDonald; 6.30 ES, Rev J McMahon.

FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30, 12.30, 4.15, 6.15 LM; II HM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC, Rev R Thorpe; II MS, Rev S Millar; 5,

7.30 Informal Service. THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Theresa Mass (Haydn); 12.30 Mass; 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass.

ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: II Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEY'S CHAPEL, ECZ: 9.45 HC; II MS, Gordon Barritt. WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL (Methodist): 11 MP, Rev P Graves; 6.30 ES.

ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran), EC2: 11 Ch Euch; 7 Jazz Vespers. ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. ECI: 9 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa O rex gloriae (Lobo); 6:30 E, Purcell in G minor. ST BRIDE'S, EC4: II Ch M & Euch, Missa Brevis (Walton), Canon J Oates; 6.30 Ch E, Wesley in E, Rev J Banister. ST CLEMENT DANES: II Ch Euch, Mass in G (Schubert), Rev I Colson. ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, SWI: II HC: 6.30 ES.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, Ely Place: 11 S Mass, Mass in D (Dvorak). ST GEORGE'S, WI: 8.30 HC; II S Euch, Missa Brevis in A (Darlow). The Rector. ST JAMES'S, W2: 10.30 S Euch, Mass in F (Schubert), Rev A Meldrum: 6 Ch E. ST JAMES'S, Piccadilly: 8.30 HC: 11 S Euch, Bishop J Gaillot: 5.45 EP.

ST JOHN'S, ElS: II Family Service, Rev D Richards; 6.30 HC, Rev M Okello. ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch, Ubi caritas (Durufle); 6.30 E, Rev J Streeting. ST MARK'S, NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; 11 S Euch & Baptism, Messe Solennelle (Vierne), Rev T Devonshire Jones. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS, WC2: 8 HC: 9.45 Euch: 11.30 Visitors Service: 2.45

Chinese Service: 5 Ch E: 6.30 ES. ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, W& 8 HC: 9.30 Euch: II.15 Ch M, Fr F Gelli; 12.30 HC: 6.30 E, Fr M Fuller.

ST MARYS, SWI: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM: 6 Solemn E, Fr W Davage: 7.15 LM. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, Primrose Hill: 8 HC; 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Mozarı). Rev S Chrystal; 6 Living with Faith. ST MARYLEBONE, WI: 8 HC; II Ch Euch, Messe Solennelle (Gounod). ST PAULS, SWI: 8, 9 HC; II Solemn Euch, Mass in D (Mozart). Rev Dr C

ST PETER'S, SWI: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch; II S Euch, Missa choralis (Liszt). CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCULA. HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC; II M & Sermon, Responses: Ayiward. Rev P R C Abram.

CHAPEL ROYAL, St.James's Palace: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP, Canon J Sykes. CHAPEL ROYAL, Hampton Court Pal-ace 8.30 HC; II M; 3.30 E. GROSVENOR CHAPEL, WI: 11 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Kelly). Rev D Dewey. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY.

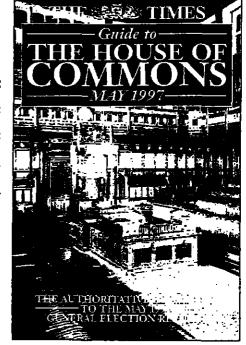
WC2: II M. Vaughan Williams in G; 12.30 HC, The Chaplain. GRAY'S INN CHAPEL, WCIR: 11.15 Divine Service. QUEEN'S FREE CHAPEL OF ST

GEORGE, Windsor Castle: 8.30 HC; 10.45 M & Sermon; 11.45 S Euch. Missa Brevis (Walton); 5.15 E. THE TEMPLE CHURCH, Fleet Street: 8.30 HC; 11.15 MP. Responses: Smith, Vaughan Williams in C, Rev J Paul. GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: II M, Band of the Coldstream Guards; 12 HC.

ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL SEI0: 11 S Euch, Anglican Folk Mass (Martin Shaw), Rev G Clifford.

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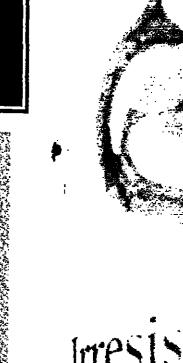




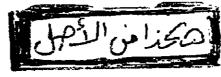


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fleshpots Irresistible

few years ago, those who dictate food fashion sud-denly remembered about they inspired the original Mogul window shapes; the pebble-like Lithops or "living stones"; the the seasons and suggested that no menu was worth its salt spidery forms of the air plant or Bryophyllum, and the sturdy barrel shapes of Echinopsis all without it reflect ng the time of year. With gardening there is less choice, appeal.

Best of all, most succulents. although hybrids produce such odd flower shades that the year's colour apart from the rosette-forming cycle sometimes appears out of kilter

Aeoium, need almost no watering during winter — bear In autumn and winter the plants in them in mind for hard-of-gardening office window boxes in cities are changed to cyclamen and pansies. friends. The most familiar, the Christmas cactus Schlumbergera X The colour never ceases, As we retreat from the garden, so indoor buckleyi, is soon to burst into colour. There are 700 varieties of Christmas plants take centre stage and legions cactus, ranging from the well-known bright crimson, orange, pink and In late autumn, before we break purple-flowered varieties through out in red, gold and green for Christmas, I like a cool respite from to the less common white-flowered varieties like

'Snowflake'. Those determined to soldier on with Christmas cacti must remember not to bring the plants into anywhere With light at night before their buds have formed (usu-September). The flower buds beauty most appealing the exquisite pale leaves of some of the rosette-forming Echeveria, which look as if need dark nights to form and so bringing the cacti

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in to the living room or kitchen will ensure flowerless Christmas cacti. An added bonus of Schlumbergera is that, according to a new book, Eco-Friendly House Plants (published by Phoenix Illustrated at £9.99), Christmas cacti remove chemical vapours

from the atmosphere - unlike most

Ralph Northcott with his all-season cacti

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but they remain beautiful, says Jane Owen

Ralph Northcott, one of this country's leading nurserymen. and a regular gold medallist at Royal Horticultural Society shows, was lured into succulent obsession at the age of nine when playing in his grand-mother's greenhouse. He

knocked over a peanut cactus (Echinopsis chamaecereus syn Chamaecereus silvestrii) which fell apart. His grandmother gave him the bits to grow cuttings. He did so and used them as swaps for conkers and marbles. Thirty years on, he has a third of an acre under glass and 200,000 to 300,000 plants to look

after with the help of his wife. His suggestion for a good display at this time of year succulents is Echinocactus grosonii (golden barrel cactus), the el**e**gant Cleistocactus strausii 'Snow Pole' and the classic spaghetti western 'rabbit ear" cactus Opuntia microdasys 'Alba'.

Mr Northcott's

great achievement is to bring hardy cacti to this country. The Americans have been growing cacti in evercooler conditions since the 1970s but Mr Northcott is the first large grower to try this on a commercial scale.

GARDEN PICTURE LIBRARY

Imagine an Opuntia outside your window, covered in snow. The Northcotts have witnessed such a sight and, if Mr Northcott's schemes go according to plan, the Chelsea Flower Show in 1999 should include a display of cacti hardy to minus 20C.

There are three fairly hardy plants not normally grown outside and in which Mr Northcott has most faith: Opuntia pycnantha, which is the spectacular bush form and can suffer temperatures as low as minus 34C; Opuntia impricata, which is the tubular. Wild West cactus shape; and the yukka-like Dasylirion texanum. Most cacti can be grown from seed

and many can be propagated from rootstock or leaf or stem cuttings. They need a free-draining soil, about one-third sharp sand to two-thirds potting compost, and their main pest, mealybug, has to be sprayed with malathion. When dormant, succulents in pots need to be kept dry, and during the growing season the com-post must dry out between waterings. But be warned - if you get infected by this obsession there are probably about 20,000 varieties. Westfield Cacti, 01392 832921.

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON

My 8ft-high, 50ft-long leylandii hedge provides exactly the screen 1 need from the hotel next door, but cracks are appearing in the Tarmac of the botel car park, spread-ing out from the base of half a dozen of my leylandii. I would welcome your advice on root prun-ing, whether I could be asked to pay for resurfac-ing, and whether I should start again with a new hedge. — J. Berry, Sandbach, Cheshire.

I would leave well alone. Hedges give privacy and security on both sides, and I imagine I would leave well the hotel management is as glad of your hedge as you are. Leylandii are not notorious for making big surface roots, but whatever the reason, it would do your hedge no good to have these roots severed. However, a neighbour has the right to sever them on his property, and if the roots cause a nuisance you are liable.

I used to buy the herbicide Weedout to tackle couch grass because it did not affect other plants. Now that it has been withdrawn, can you recommend a useful alternative? — D.R. Gilling, Norwich.

Weedout (auca) sodium) was very use-Weedout (alloxydim ful, if not quite the saviour you make it sound: it killed grasses generally, among broad-leafed plants. Farmers still have a commercial version, but there is no formulation for amateurs. Weedout was withdrawn. not by the Government but by the manufacturer, because it did not sell well enough.



Keep leylandii in check

I have acid soil and grow rhododendrons and camellias easily. All my neighbours have blue hydrangeas with no special treatment, but not me. What could be missing from my soil? Iron? Aluminium? — Smare, Guiseley, West Yorkshire.

To get a deep blue hydrangea you need first of all a willing variety. Those which are pale pink on limey soil will only be pale blue on acid soil. Deep reds on lime will be a rich blue on acid: for example, 'Altona', 'Hamburg', 'Europa' and the lace-cap type 'Blue Wave'. If the soil is acid but the flowers are not blue, the soil is short of aluminium. This can be corrected by adding alum powder, sold in garden centres. Be careful not to overdose the plants, and follow the instructions on the packet.

• Write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, I Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. Enclosures accompanying leiters cannot be returned.

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nary shapes and forms of succulents.

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succulents but the reverse is not true.

It is an odd time of year to consider

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arid zones, but it is exactly when they are not flowering that I find their

drought conditions. All cacti are

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ancy Lam. the Channel 5 cook. once described as the Khmer Rouge's answer to Basil Fawlty, is being alarminely calm for someone who can cause grown food critics to wish they'd stuck with Delia Smith. No obscenities are uttered as they are to journalists and customers who brave Enak Enak, her eight-table restaurant in south London. Her hair, sometimes a riot of five primary colours, is plain red. But this is Ms Lam's Toot-

ing home, a small Edwardian semi with a 120ft garden stretching down to a suburban railway line. She is off duty. "I am a very nice person."

she says and roars with laughter. So why does she give her customers such grief?
"Not called grief. That is

called heavy fun. It like a verbal massage and the cus-

tomers, they love it. They say 'that woman is *mod*'." Tooting, home for the past 21 years after she arrived from Singapore in 1970, tames Ms Lam. Maybe the calming effect is enhanced by chimes that hang from many of the small

trees in her garden.
"When I get very frustrated I ring the whole chimes -- ring ring ring. Bong bong bong." roars Ms Lam, who is nearly 50 ("like Prince Charles")

going on four-and-a-half. However, even the garden has its tensions with Ben, her husband, who is shouted at a lot on her television series.

Ben is not into gardening. He is trying to play golf, so he makes lots of holes in my garden. I am going to put a big sign: You do not damage your garden. You damage your brain." This is said in a manner that suggests the brain damage would be inflicted by Ms Lam.

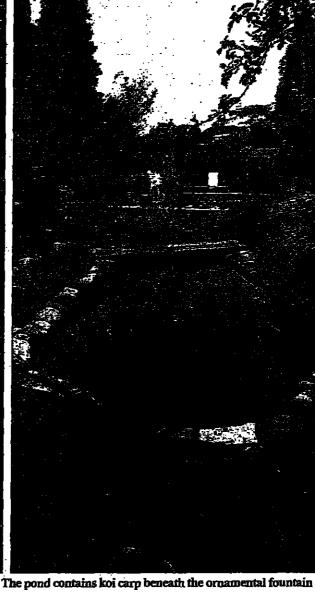
"Men have the menopause worse than women. I know he's got his on and so have I. On television, people say, Oh, she gives him a really hard time, but it is acting.

The Singapore flat she was brought up in had a balcony where her mother grew roses that she was not allowed to touch. Today her front garden is full of roses.

The back garden is reached through a conservatory, built to extend the living space for people rather than plants.



Nancy Lam, television's wildest cook, finds peace in her south London garden, which features a terrace for meditation and herbs for infusing bathwater. The pond contains koi carp beneath the ornamental fountain



Outside, a concrete path leads to a spiral staircase up to a roof terrace where Ms Lam sunbathes, Naked. "I call it my

own nude beach."
The roof — I call it my meditation room" — supports Ms Lam, two wooden elephants from Africa (a present from her brother) and pots full of pansies, honeysuckle and **Busy Lizzies.**

Pansies are such welcoming flowers. They smile at you ien you water them."

A trellis swathed in clematis makes a private oasis at the house end of the garden. Here, herbs are planted within easy reach of the kitchen: fennel. basil, tarragon, thyme, coriander, chilli, Chinese herbs, marjoram, mint, rosemary . . .

She uses them for cooking, especially salads, but most of all for herbal infusions, to bathe in rather than drink. Canna lilies, orange, yellow, pink and spotted, and ivyleafed geraniums provide col-

while scented leaf pelargoniums provide balm.
"If you feel low you go into the garden and rub them up and you feel better."

Raised beds made from railway sleepers reach up the side of the garden. The beds

ME AND MY GARDEN: NANCY LAM

support magnolia, camellia, mock orange, hydrangeas, wisteria, bamboo, white lilac, mulberry, cherry, almond, greengage, pear, apricot, peach and fig. Ms Lam plant-ed them all except an old apple. "It has woodworm. Very sad. Have to get rid of it."

The beds are raised in case Ms Lam's arthritis finally prevents her from bending. Arthritis is also the reason for her current diet - she has to lose a stone by Christmas. "I have to eat less and enjoy it."

Now the only fruit left is on the Turkish fig. The almond gives a few nuts but in England it is difficult. The Mulberry does not have many fruit but they are so sweet. The apples are not so good now, so

I put them in salad." The centrepiece of the garden is a 26ft koi carp pond made from Butyl liner, with a fountain in the middle and dotted with white water lilies. Sited around the edge is a planting of hostas ("unfortunately, they are always eaten

grasses and bamboo.

هِ كَذَا مِن رِلامِل

The bricks that form a slightly raised patio at the far end of the garden came from a Chelsea Flower Show display garden, and cost £50.

Money, or lack of it, is a recurring theme of Ms Lam's commentary on her garden: They think because you are a showgirl you've got plenty of dosh. That is not the case. "When I have money the first thing I'll do is build a

pergola over the terrace - an

oriental one, with a vine over it. Then I make another pond." Will she get a bigger restaurant to make more money? 'No. You only can die with one

coffin. You only can drive one car. It is Catch-22. If you have big restaurant, you have big headache. If you have small one, you just have pain in the side." Ms Lam says.

Another plan is to rebuild an eccentric feature that involves water trickling down four concrete steps. "It's called the Botched-Up Waterfall. Next year I'll break it down and make it more exotic. "It is a garden of wildness. It

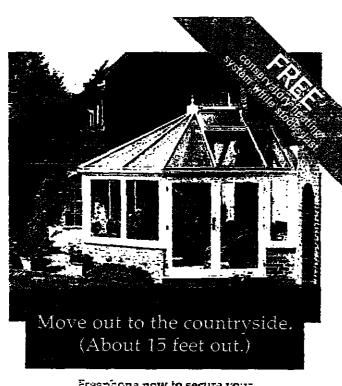
is not near. It has more weeds than my hair growing. I love it. I get out in the morning or night and weed and pick up the droppings from the dogs

and water my garden." Where does Ms Lam get her plants? "Everywhere. Boot fairs. Sometimes Woolworth's has the best."

But her long-term ambition is to do with neither cooking nor gardening: "When I grow up I am going to draw."

JANE OWEN ● Nancy Lam Stirs It Up was blished by Forth Estate, price

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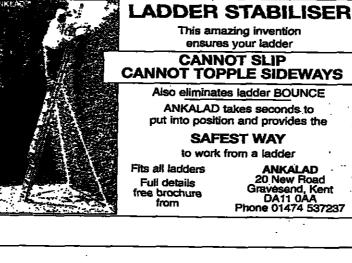
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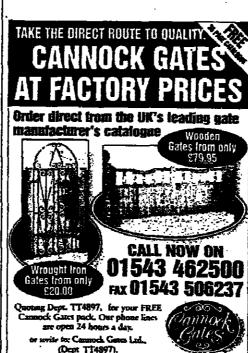




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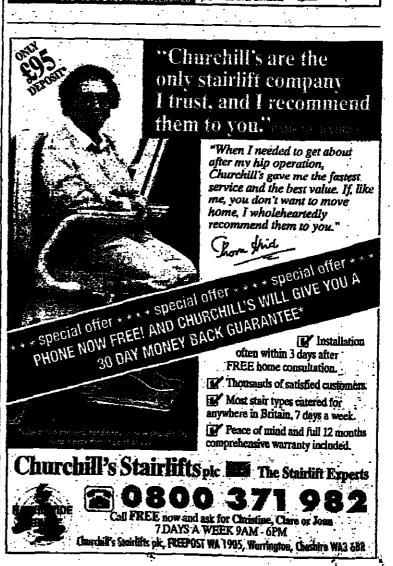
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Old treasures unearthed

Some of Britain's most beautiful and historic gardens

are at last being restored, Barbara Abbs discovers

few years ago it was inconceivable that there were any parts of the United Kingdom left to discover. Then in farthest Cornwall, the pop music entrepreneur Tim Smit discovered, or rediscovered, the lost garden of Heligan and spent several years restoring it. We all stopped wearing out the paths at Sissinghurst and flocked to Cornwall instead. Suddenly owners of historic houses realised that they too could iricrease their visitor numbers, save their ailing

estates and fill in a bit of Britain's horticultural history by restoring their neglected gardens. The County Gardens Trust alerted people throughout the country to the treasures on their doorsteps. The great garden restoration era began. There are still, however, jewels that are under In the South East, the plea-

sure garden of St Mary's Bramber, a beat tiful late-15th century timber-framed house in West Sussex, was sold separately and lay neglected for 50 years. Even Bramber villagers had never seen it. The 3.5-acre site in the centre of the village suddenly came on to the market and developers flocked to see it, waving their plans for dividing the secret garden into separate lots which would have destroyed it for ever. The owners of St Mary's, the composer, poet and critic Peter Thorogood and the ceramic designer Peter Linton, acted swiftly and borrowed enough money to secure the site.

The Victorian garden of St Mary's was laid out in the 1890s by the Hon Algernon Burke, son of the Earl of Mayo and model for Algernon in Oscar Wilde's The Importance of Being Earnest. It included a circular orchard and yew hedges. It still has its original greenhouse, potting shed, ap-ple store and 140ft fruit wall. To restore the grounds, a St Mary's Lost Garden Appeal has been launched, and because the garden is in the centre of one of Sussex's visitors is guaranteed.

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FACT FILE

St Mary's House, Bramber, West Sussex (01903 816205) is open all year for concerts, reception and hospitality, and from Easter for tours.

Monreith Estate, Port William, Newton Stewart DG8 9LB (01988 700248) opens in May for the Scottish Gardens Scheme but the walks are open daily throughout the year.

The Association of Gardens Trusts, 8 Glasshouse Lane Kenilworth, Warwickshire CV8 2AJ (01926 52976). The

Garden History Society, 77

Cowcross Street, London

ECIM 6BP.

Things are different in the remote corners of Dumfries and Galloway. The majority of visitors to Scotland head for the Highlands and Islands, and even those to Galloway can miss the Whithorn peninsula, cut off from the rest of the area by the hills known as the Machars. Between the Machars and the sea there are several "lost" gardens, the most interesting being that at Monreith House.

Readers of Gavin Maxwell's The House of Elrig will remember that Monreith was the home of Gavin's grandfather, Sir Herbert Maxwell, and one to which he returned regularly throughout his life, long after Eirig had been sold. It was in the White Loch of Myrton, a part of the Monreith estate, that Mijbil, Maxwell's otter and star of Ring of Bright Water, took his first swim in Scotland. There

are several footpaths marked

in the grounds, including one

round the loch. What the walkers may miss, however, is the collection of rhododendrons and exotic trees collected by Sir Herbert. He was a prolific writer, about his garden, local history and politics, and a painter as well. Gavin Maxwell-describes his grandfather painting and gar-dening all day, activities he was somewhat dismissive of Sir Herbert painted one of his projects like these

For that Extra Special

rhododendron species each day, and many of the paintings are on display in the house, now divided into rather

grand holiday flats. This move has saved the house, which was in a bad state until Sir Michael Maxwell, the current owner, inherited it. The garden, however, is still in limbo. The rare rhododendrons, cucryphias and berberis are still there, some 50ft high, but increasingly

swamped by sycamores.

There is a grove of that Victorian favourite, the monkey puzzle tree and, even more excitingly, the remains of the avenues and tree clumps of an 18th-century park.

The estate also contains the ruins of the 15th-century Myrton Castle and its walled garden. The castle was largely destroyed by the builder who built Monreith House in the late 18th century, but an enormous tapestry of flowers that grew in that walled garden, the work of the wife of the third Maxwell baronet, now hangs in the hallway of Monreith. It shows Madonna and Isabelline lilies, clove carnations and auriculas among the flowers.

state maps, the tapes-

try and the evidence on the ground, those vestigial lime and beech avenues, all point towards an earlier important garden, over which Sir Herbert's collection of exotics forms a fascinating overlay.

It is still touch and go whether the garden or the sycamores will be the victor. But Robert Tossnic, the manager at Monreith House, has called in Mervyn Kessell of the Scottish Rhododendron Society and Christopher Dingwall, the conservation officer of the Garden History Society (Scotland). There will be a one-day conference at Monreith early next year to bring together

concerned people, to see what can most fruitfully be done. At Heligan, Tim Smit, with his zest and promotional skills, has led the way in showing the possibilities for fun and profit there are in

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Hidden splendours: Monreith House has a Victorian monkey puzzle grove and the remains of an 18th-century park



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Fuchsias put under glass for winter should be kept frost-free, and the leaves allowed to fall: collect up the leaves to discourage moulds. Cuttings taken in the autumn will be stronger next spring if they are kept in leaf through the winter, but not in active growth, at about 41F/5C.

■ Patio pots and containers should be scrubbed out when their contents have succumbed to the frosts. Move pots with a permanent planting of shrubs or topiary to a suitably sheltered spot for the winter, and check that the drainage is working.

■ Cloves of garlic may be planted outdoors on light, well-drained soils. Use only plump, firm bulblets and set 7in apart. ■ Give frost protection to

celeriac and other root crops left in the ground, with straw or bracken, hedge prunings, or horticultural fleece.

In milder eardens, the hardiest 'Aquadulce' broad beans and sugar peas may be sown in mild spells for an early crop next year. Watch for mice, and use a cloche if the weather turns

Hardwood cuttings of currants and gooseberries taken last autumn can be transplanted into their final positions, after thorough enrichment of the soil in the



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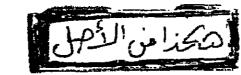
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German goodwill and glühwein

Gareth Huw Davies finds

seasonal cheer in a city at peace with itself

n a late afternoon of nipping chill, in a city square in the heart of Europe, I found the antidote to brash, glitzy, overblown, commercial

As the daylight ebbed, a cheerful glow pulsed up from the covered stalls of the Nuremberg Christkindlmarkt. crammed together in medieval tightness. The city, capital of the Franconia region of north-ern Bavaria, claims the great-

est concentration department stores in Germany. The modest wares on sale here the Hauptmarkt scarcely caused the people in smart coats and scarves to take out their credit cards but at four o'clock, a choir of Nurem-

berg mastersing-

ers took the stage in front of Frauenkirche. Cue for the smart coats to press forward and form a genteel Germanic scrum around the base of the stage. I stood back to listen, wrapping my fingers for maximum warming effect around a ceramic mug of glühwein.

The choir sang Hark the Herald Angels in English. with unaccompanied purity. Ancient decree prohibits aural competition among the stalls - no traders' calls, no music. The stallholders are chosen

from local merchants. They stand proud under painted name boards, selling toys and small seasonal ornaments that dangle and rustle in the raw wind. There were gold foil angels, straw stars, candles and diaphanous mobiles. One lady surveyed her wares from a small aperture high at the back of her stall. She was entirely framed by Zwet-schgenmännlein - little prune and crèpe paper figures.

1 bought Lebkuchen (spicy

gingerbread), the deceptively dense and heavy Früchtebrot (fruit bread), Stollen and fruit tea.

Früchtetee. Down every alley there was a family toiling over hot coals for the snacks that work to best effect outdoors on a cold evening. The Wolf family served me grilled

Nuremberg sau-sages, Rostbratwürste. There were six on my plate, with a towering hunk of break and a mound of sauerkraut.

This is the market of markets, the first and best in Europe, the model for any city or town that wants to create a small enclave of tranquillity away from the seasonal shopping frenzy. This is Nuremberg's Christmas Continuous, carrying on much as it has

since the Middle Ages.
The Christkindlmarkt (liter ally the Christchild's market) had an unlikely patron. Martin Luther, father of Protestantism, initiated the custom

of giving presents to children at Christmas instead of new year. Fixed in its season, the market proceeded serenely pathway of sound. through the centuries. Hitler, On recognising a symbol of Ger-manic family values in the

propaganda capital of his Reich, gave it his support. Retribution came to Nuremberg on January 2, 1945, when Allied bombers destroyed 90 per cent of the old town. The market reopened in 1948, a beacon of hope even as the war trials were proceeding a few

streets away in the Hall of Justice. There is live music on the Frauenkirche stage on the hour, every hour - in a city whose name is contained in the title of a great opera, Die Meistersinger von Nürnberg, you would expect no less. On my walk from the airport bus

stop at the main station.

through the traffic-free streets. buskers defied the one-degree cold to spread a continuous

Königstrasse, French horns boomed out a medley of carols. A man playing an antique metal fid-die reeled off yearning melodies. And, incongruous and stoical, Kenny Grant "aus Schottland", in a kilt, rendered Brian Boru's march on a tin

Hans Sachs, the extraordinary 16th-century cobbler, poet, playwright and masternger who is the hero of Wagner's opera, was everywhere: in statues, on chocolate-box lids and ceramic plates. I even saw him in paintable model form, alongside soldiers of the Brandenburg Kurassier regiment.

Sach's poem, Bittersweet Married Life, is controver-

sially set in lascivious sculpture as a fountain, depicting scenes from marital life — it was paid for from the 1-2 per cent of the building budget which developers are required to spend on public art.

The Nuremberg Christmas market (above left) combines the seasonal traditions of gift-buying and warming food and wine with rousing music

the image of Nuremburg's other famous son, Albrecht Dürer, was there on chocolate boxes too, but disappointingly not in the original. This may have more to do with past art-market forces than any neglect by today's city fathers. I stayed at the Dürer Hotel, next door to his house. Today. as the Dürer Museum, it contains only copies of the master's works. For the originals, try the Prado or the

Save Nuremberg's market for the fading day. The morning is the time to climb the ramparts and take in the city. Germany is an unlikely candidate for monarchial restoration but if the king ever were to return, the Kaiserburg, the old imperial castle built on precipitous crags, is waiting.

The "old" city, rebuilt after the war much as it was, spread out before us, timbered houses with steep brown and red roofs enclosed by the threemile-long, 14th-century city wall, with its 80 fortified towers and the tremendous bulwarks of four main gates. My guide, a Germanophile American named Sally Slenczka, extended an arm over a feel-good city, comfortable and humane in its proportions. She made no attempt to divert my eye from the complex of buildings representing a mighty evil a few

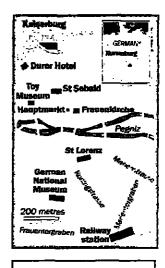
miles to the southeast. Medieval Nuremberg held

a powerful fascination for the Nazis and the first of the great Nazi rallies was held here in 1927. I am surprised that the physical remains of Hitler's propaganda machine are still there. But perhaps there is a point to leaving the unfinished Congress Hall, the Main Stand, Zeppelinfeld parade ground and colossal Grosse

car park), as mute witnesses to Nazi megalomania. Sally led me down into the old town. We crossed the river Pegnitz on Germany's first suspension bridge and passed the house where the mysterious foundling Kaspar Hauser briefly lived after he was found, so it was claimed, living wild in the forest in the early years of the last century. The Toy Museum displays what may be the original Meccano

Strasse, 60 metres wide and

two kilometres long (it is now a



FACT FILE

■ Gareth Huw Davies travelled to Nuremberg with the German National Tourist Office and Lufthansa.

Lufthansa (0345 737747) flies direct to Nuremberg from Heathrow once daily at 30pm, Prices start at £192 return, which must include a Saturday

night stay; otherwise from ■ Operators offering Nuremberg Christmas market breaks include Taber Holidays (01274 735611: three nights start at £298 per person) and DER Travel Service (0171-290 1111: three nights start at £4,39 per personj. ■ Dürer Hotel.

Neutormauer 32 (00 49 911 208091); double room with breakfast £76-£86. Although December is city's Tourist Board (00) 49 911 336124) can arrange

■ The Nuremberg Christkindlmarkt opens a 5.30pm on November 28 and runs until lpm on

Some of the biggest markets in Germany are in Berlin, Hamburg, Dresden, Cologne, Munich and StuttearL The German

National Tourist Office, 65 Curzon Street, London. WIY 8NE (0891 600100. premium rates, fax 0171-495 6129).

set, developed by local toy

manufacturers. Nuremberg has two fine high Gothic churches, St Lorenz and St Sebaldus, close together and similar. This was a free city and one of Europe's first civic democracies, so the citizenry saw no reason to smash up the contents in the Reformation. The churches' treasures were hidden before the bombers struck. Most of St

Lorenz was destroyed. Outside the 19th-century German National Museum is the Way of Human Rights by the Israeli sculptor Dani Karavan, li struck me as an eloquent response to the Nuremberg Laws and other outrages perpetrated in the city's name. Thirty pillars and a tree stand in a row: each pillar represents a nation where human rights have been, or are being, violated (the leaves on the tree stand for the nations left out), and each is inscribed with one of the 30 articles of the UN Declaration

on Human Rights. I decide to send myself forth into the Christmas season with a last visit to the market. On Königstrasse the four French horns were still playing lustily; rapid, ornamented Baroque music keeps you warm. A trombone ensemble played Angels from the Realms of Glory. And the Christmas card artist's fantasy fulfilled - a single snowflake brushed against my cheek.

Christmas markets, page 26



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Christmas markets: they have long been a success in Germany and Austria and now British cities are copying the idea



Christmas is big business in Vienna, where the markets run for longer than in Britain

Shopping in a Viennese whirl

صكذا من رلاصل

The Viennese, having shopped 'til they dropped in department stores, head for the markets which spring up around the city for Advent and the countdown to Christmas.

When we visited, the famous Viennese coffee houses were crammed with exhausted but victorious shoppers rewarding themselves with large helpings of chocolate sachertorte, washed down by small, expensive cups of coffee. Then. their shopping fever unabated, they turned their attention to one of the many markets dedicated to the festive season.

Neat wooden huts (none of your plastic sheeting here) in even neater lines held displays of every imaginable Christmas tree light, decoration, candle and wooden toy. Anyone who was still hungry could rely on a steady supply of mulled wine. pretzels, hot potatoes and chestnuts.

The market of markets takes place each year in the courtyard at Schönbrunn, the summer palace of the Habsburgs, a short underground ride from the city centre.

The attraction of Schönbrunn is the apartments of Sisi, Empress Elizabeth, the much-loved princess who died from an assassination attempt in 1898. Next year. Vienna mounts a series of centenary exhibitions and events in her honour.

When we arrived at the market, throngs of people were already shopping with gusto in the courtyard below the elegantly floodlit palace, or leaning against the bar of a mulled wine hut.

Christmas is big business in Vienna, regardless of the religious significance it may have for the country's overwhelmingly Catholic population. In a city radiating such Christmas goodwill, the sight of three armed policemen standing around their patrol car in a quiet cobbled square came as a shock. But this was Friday evening off the Judengasse, or Jews' Street. The police have stood guard since last year's murder of two worshippers at the city's synagogue by Palestinian

Orthodox Jews in long black coats and

fur hats ignored the police as they hurried into the synagogue through the cold winter air. The police were joking among themselves but their presence served as a salutary reminder that, even in proudly low-crime Vienna, there are undercurrents of conflict.

Nearer to the centre, in front of the town hall, the stalls of the Christkindlmarkt fill the Rathauspark every day in the month leading up to Christmas.

nd there are also workshops for making and baking presents and special sideshows for children. At night this shopping extravaganza continues, and the atmosphere of the illuminated market is quite magical.

Smaller and more traditional is the Alt

Wiener Christkindlmarkt at the Freyung, while other Christmas markets can be found at the Heiligenkreuzerhof and in the Spittelberg pedestrian area.

SARA MCCONNELL

FACT FILE

Sara McConnell travelled with Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts and Lauda Air.

Heart of the City weekends are available at the Hotel Inter-Continental Wien at Johannesgasse 28, Vienna, including a room for two, Prices start at £97. For reservations call 0345 581 444.

Landa Air prices start at £178 return Gatwick-Vienna, or from £182 Manchester-Vienna. Flights must be purchased seven days ahead. For reservations coll coar 6077737.

Festive cheer in Lincolnshire

Gareth Huw Davies discovers how glühwein can

take the stress out of all that shopping

ooming over its miles of low-slung country-, side, Lincoln is one of the most surprising cities in England — and for a few days in winter, it also becomes one of the most continental.

In early December, the streets of the ancient centre between the west front of the superb, 900-year-old cathedral and the even older castle - are transformed into a bustling enclave of Central Europe. Lincoln's successful replication of the German and Austrian Christmas market is being observed by other cities, eager to fill the slow period for tourism.

This winter. Edinburgh inaugurates its own week-long Christmas market. Other towns and cities have started smaller markets, as councillors return from fact-finding trips to their twin towns with news of how even

small towns in warm glow into their civic bosoms in December. ! went from London to Lincoln

for the market last winter. Mindful of potential traffic chaos because of the influx of visitors from all over the East Mid-lands, I turned my trip into a pleasant afternoon excursion

by train from King's Cross. This is an appropriate way to arrive in a cathedral city: just two hours after a leisurely haul through the flat fenlands, and tea on the train, we pulled into the charmingly antique station, with its graceful period details - semaphore signals, crenellated wooden eaves, golden bricks and grey

and red metalwork. Christmas markets are a joyful illusion, reminiscent of a cosier time in an indeterminate past. They work best beneath warm evening light in "heritage" civic settings. The illusion began to take effect in the film-set railway station. I decided to walk rather than dispel the mood by taking a taxi, which would have driven me up the ugly canyon of a bypass that keeps central Lincoln probably more traffic-free than at any time since the Middle Ages. To find the market. I had only to head for

the sensationally illuminated cathedral on the hill. I walked under the Roman arch, Stonebow, along the Strait and the climb began. Up Steep Hill, where the cobbled way almost took off under my feet. After a precipitous climb -I'm sure the shops here look for resting, as well as passing, trade - I reached the uplands. In Castle Square, a young

clarinettist negotiated the second movement of Mozart's concerto in A Major. Coins tinkled down. Stalls spilled out of the castle grounds, into the surrounding streets and pressed up against the west door of the cathedral. This market has very quickly reached bursting point. It cannot grow any more, at least not spatially. The only expansion available is to let it run longer. As in the German markets, a quarter of the 200 stalls sell food. The organisers paid due

> acknowledgment to their inspiraample supplies of Teutonic fare, including unquenchable vats of glühwein, chest-The stalls, a

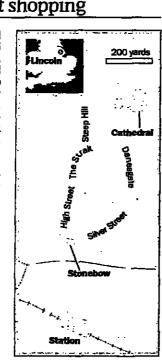
third of them run by professional traders, sell the familiar range of jewellery, craft items and seasonal decorations. There is a big involvement by volunteers and fund raisers. Last year, for example, the Lions Club sold 18,000 lanterns. The market, now in its 16th year, is the

city's biggest single tourist

event and has won it three awards for off-peak tourism.

he model for the event came from its German twin. Neustadt an der Weinstrasse, which also supplied the recipe for Lincoln's potent glühwein. The market organisers wisely refrained from drawing a theme from the history that surrounds them in the shape of Roman remains, Norman castle and medieval cathedral. Instead, they opted for a Dickensian feel, dressing anyone official in

Victorian costume. There were street entertainers and big, wholesome fairground rides like steam gallopers. This year there will



FACT FILE

Lincoln Tourist Information (01522 529828). Information about Lincoln's Christmas Market is on 01522 511300. Vational rail inquires (0345 484950t; a day return from London to Lincoln costs £29.50 for travel starting after 9.30am.

Other, smaller, city events include: York's St Nicholas Fayre, from Nov 27 to 30; markets and craft stalls in the heart f the city. Worcester's Victorian Christmas market, in the city centre, runs from Dec 46. Lancaster has a festival of Christmas trees: shops will place a decorated tree in their windows, to be judged on December 12. Rochester's Dickensian Fair occupies the High Street on December 6-7. Ring 0800 192192 to find the ber of your local tourist information centre

be a touch of pre-war Vienna, in the shape of a 33-metre-high

ferris wheel. Lincoln (and most of the British Christmas markets for that matter), disappointingly, does not match the German markets on length or timing. Nuremberg's market, for example, begins in late Novem-ber and closes at lunchtime on Christmas Eve. Lincoln's fourday market (December 4-7 this

year) ends 18 days before Christmas Day. This, apparently, is because volunteers cannot be expected to give up weeks of their time. In addition, organisers are anxious to spare residents an extended

assault by visitors. The timing, at the start of December, results from the obsession with early Christmas shopping in Britain. In previous years, when the mar-

ket was held closer to Christmas, traders found visitors came only to browse, having completed their shopping.

If Lincoln was the prototype market, Edinburgh's is one of the first of the production models. The inaugural Christmas market will be held in Princes Street Gardens, with the floodlit castle as backdrop. It opens on December 6 and

The organisers, supported by the city council and Lothian and Edinburgh Enterprise, gathered ideas at last year's Christmas market in Vienna, "We decided it could be done here, but slightly differently, and smaller," said a spokeswoman. Edinburgh's will be a continental-style Christmas

market with 40 stalls selling

things that are not on sale in

Princes Street. Festive demon-

A woodcraft stall in Lincoln. Handmade toys have proved as popular in Britain as they are in German markets

strations will include presentwrapping and cocktail-mak-ing. However, through some perversity of Scottish law, you won't be able to buy glühwein out of doors - only in covered

It will be some years before Britain's Christmas markets rival their German models, but even now they are offering a gentle introduction to the festive season.

CHRISTMAS MARKETS

WHERE DO I START? www.nuernberg.de/ events/events.html offers a brief intro to Nuremberg's Christmas Market, while the sparklingly starry site at www.christkindlmarkt.at/ english/index.htm does the same for Vienna. For a listing of North European events leading up to Christmas, including the markets, check out www.seaeurope.com/ events.htm or, for the sole British equivalent, to www.britishadventures. com/britvn!2.htm KER-CHING! THE BEST DEAL: For the Hidden Christmas Markets six-day tour in Germany and Štrasbourg from £590 (flights extra) visit www.etaeurope.com/hidden/ index.html For a general pick of the best Christmas holiday deals drop by the products.compuserve.co.uk/ ukinsight/page5.htm site. TRAVELLERS TALES: Read messages and queries from past happy



shoppers at the Nuremberg Market at www.nuernberg .de/events/ckm96/ gruesse_e.html complete with electronic rendering of Silent Night) or post your own by emailing webmaster@nuern berg.de See for yourself what Vienna market looks like with photos from Europe's first photoagency on the web - www.atnet.co. at/viennaslide/7361.htm Lincoln's Christmas Market may not be online yet but for a personal guide to Lincoln and its other attractions, check out Michelle Barnes's site at www.hermes2.demon.co. uk/lincoln1.htm MUGGING-UP: For a look at Christmas Markets, go to www. eurogastronomy.com/ EN/chap!/themes.html WELL, I NEVER!" Check out live carnera footage of the Christmas Market at Nuremberg, at www.christkindlesmarkt.de/ live/index_e.html SUSANNAH JOWITT

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STRV BING THE

Family beach at the desert's edge



Club Med has shaken off its swinging singles image in Israel,

> as Winifred Blackmore

discovered

first mooted as our holiday destination, I sceptical. Eilat? I could not even pronounce it, let alone pinpoint it on the map. And Club Med? The name conjured up visions of swinging — French — singles purchasing exotic cocktails with beads. Surely not the place for your basic boring English family with two children?

However, Club Med has matured over the years - even mellowed. Resorts are now clearly labelled: singles, couples and, yes, families. Even the beads have gone, abandoned because younger guests had a nasty habit of eating

The Club Med at Coral Beach, just up the road from Eilat on the southernmost tip of Israel, is a good example of the new family resort, where guests tailor their holiday to their needs. Sick to death of your kids? Fine. Check them nto the Mini Club, Club Med's answer to daycare.

Then head for the gym or the beach, confident that they are learning some exciting new skill like archery or minigolf under the expert supervision of the Gentils Organisareurs (GOs) — the group's young beautiful and exceptionally hard-working staff. If, on the other hand, you are your offspring, that is all right, too. At Club Med, nobody has Ano join in and nobody is made to feel like a party-pooper for

not participating.

Do not go to Club Med expecting high-tech. There is — gasp — no television. My children, who see the television as the sixth member of our family (after the dog). could hardly believe this. There is also no room service.

Club Med works hard at promoting the image of the hotel as haven: a place where you and your children can be pampered and kept out of harm's way. This takes some getting used to - but persevere. By about Day Three, when your child wanders off for the umpteenth time, you

will not care. The GOs keep a discreet but vigilant eye on young guests and children are encouraged to be independent. Those aged eight and over are allowed the freedom of the hotel - provided parents give their permission. Most do. Almost as hard to get used

to is the scenery. The hotel at Coral Beach looks out across the Gulf of Filat to the Red Mountains of Jordan. They have a raw look, as though somebody has peeled the skin back, exposing the flesh beneath. In the distance, if you crane your neck, you can see Saudi Arabia

Turn right outside the hotel, going past the camel-ride man, head down the dusty road for ten miles and you hit Egypt. Even the trip from the airport takes you past King Solomon's Mountains (pink with brown stripes like some giant cassata). The whole desert looks like the red section from an artist's palette: burnt umber and ochre, terracotta and sienna.

There are indications that this is not just another holiday destination, but an important border town in a country not



Jeep full of soldiers along a

border patrol route. But it is not, as I feared. menacing or oppressive; in-deed, given the bloody terrorist attacks on tourists in neighbouring Egypt, the presence of these tough, unsmiling Israeli troops is actually

Back at the hotel there is plenty to please. Lie back and sunbathe by the heated pool. For those who prefer the sea. there is a private beach conveniently close to a coral reef and mind-boggling snorkelling. If you fancy learning to windsurf, just make sure you do not get blown across the Gulf into Jordanian waters or you might wind up being

escorted back to your hotel by

gunboat. There is also tennis, archery and a well equipped fitness room.

Then there is the food. At Club Med, eating is not just a diversion: it is the focus of the day. Almost an Olympic event really, helped no doubt by the fact that all meals are included in the cost of your package. Breakfast, with brioches, crèpes and croissants, merges into lunch, which blurs into

The main hotel restauran French in style, is fine, but the best-kept secret is the Menora, the kosher restaurant set on the edge of the beach. The food is sublime: Middle Eastern dips with pitta bread, steak and chicken grilled before your eyes, and falafel that bear no resemblance to the desiccated golf balls you find in this

country.
Outside the hotel, there are plenty of things to do and see. Club Med has its own excursion office where guests can book outings at special rates, ranging from Dolphin Reef (a PC attraction, a part of the sea where dolphins are kept, no humiliating Flipper tricks) to overnight treks to such places as Petra and Jerusalem. Some of the trips were prohibitively

expensive or unsuitable for

The Coral Beach resort near the Negev desert in southern Israel is a holiday destination that manages to be both child-friendly and exotic with dolphins offshore and desert carnel rides

suitable for families is the camel desert tour, based at the Wadi Schlomo camel ranch just five minutes from the hotel. Tourists are given half an hour's tuition in the rudiments of carnel riding — "hook your leg round the pommel and hang on for dear life" followed by a jaunt through

the Arava desert. The prospect of swaying for several hours atop a ten-foot

nice you have seen

somewhat dated saying

goes. In our opinion we

Greenland in preference

world and if you feel the

consider joining us on a

late summer expedition

adapted Molchanov.

the Denmark Strait to

cruise aboard the specially

Here we will begin a voyage

the south, following in the wake

of the great Norse settlers who

risked life and limb some 900

years ago when they left the

shores of Iceland and Norway.

glacial ice, winding fjords, vast ice-

Coastal Greenland is marvellous to behold. Great towering cliffs, walls of

sheets and flowing glaciers. It is one of

the last great wilderness areas where,

to date, man has made little difference

to the landscape and tourists are still a

humbling experience as they witness

nature in the raw and look out across

PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV

Built in Finland in 1983 for the

former Soviet Union's programme of

polar and oceanographic research, she

comfortable and well equipped vessel with an ice-strengthened hull, making

tons and is manned by an experienced

and enthusiastic Russian crew. On board

there is the latest sophisticated navigation

and communication equipment and the

Public areas include a lounge, bar,

library, clinic, sauna and an open bridge.

supervised by European staff are served in

two dining rooms. There are large open

decks and with only a maximum of just

over 50 passengers, the vessel even when

full has a peaceful and roomy atmosphere.

vessel has the comfort of a passive

The hearty and excellent meals,

stabilisation system.

her ideal for polar waters.

was refurbished in 1994 and fully fitted

in 1996 for expeditionary travel. She is a

rarity. For most visitors their first

encounter with Greenland is a

a magnificent Arctic world.

to most places in the

same way you should

always go to

Greenland, so the

would rather go to

the world you can

hump-backed dromedary filled me with dread. But once I realised I was not going to fall off and that Mona, my trusty camel, knew the way with her long-lashed eyes

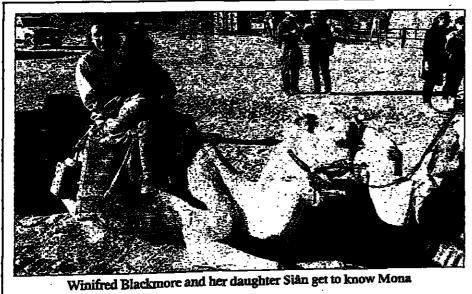
shut, the thrill and the strangeness overwhelmed me. Take-offs and landings were disconcerting. My eight-year-old daughter, Sian, who rode double with me, insisted it was better if you closed your eyes, but you will want to keep them

two grown-ups and two children, and includes the cost of a Bedu meal. The tours go twice a day, but take the afternoon trip if you can. Watching the sun sink over the painted mountains and riding home under the desert stars is unforgettable.

For those who want to travel further afield without paying for the expensive and adultoriented Club Med guide, rent a car (this, too, can be wide open the rest of the time. arranged by the hotel) and The price is about £75 for drive to the Dead Sea. The 24- worth the risk.

hour trip through the desert really is as straightforward as everybody tells you: just follow the main road until your ears start to pop and you get to the peculiar milky-blue water.

Once at the seaside, do not be deterred by the signs with their lists of things you must not do (dive head first into the water, splash or ingest any of it) or by the fact that, as my daughter put it, the whole place "smells like bad scram-bled eggs". Like Eilat, it is well



■ Who goes there? In summer:

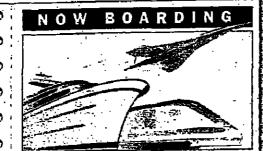
Pyrex-like Israelis not minding 50-degree heat. In winter: Diving fans. Sun-and sex-starved northern Europeans. Israeli OAPs. London cabbies. ■ Getting the ball rolling: Call the Israeli Tourist Office on 0171-299 IIII On the Internet, visit http:/www.inisrael.com/tour Perfect timing: 350 sunny days

a year, so hard to miss out on a

tan. To avoid being overbaked. stick to "cooler" months outside Jun-Jul-Aug. Unlike Atlantic resorts, sea is always warm. Suitcase strategy: Take out: long, light trousers for camel-riding, hat for desert trips. Bring back: Adidas gear (Israelimade, so it's relatively cheap). Only local

liquor is good value - with uplifting names like Hallelujah! ■ Pound in your pocket: 5.5 shekels to the pound. Can pay with credit cards, sterling or dollars nearly everywhere. Don't change money in hotels — change

shops don't charge commission. ■ Turn of phrase: Forget "desert" as sand-dunes: think speciacular coloured mountains, riven by a million wadis (dry river beds). "Shalom", or "peace" is



"hello" Saying "Shabat Shalom" on Friday evenings and Saturdays shows respect for the Jewish sabbath. Permanent musical chorus of Hava Nagila means "Let's have a good time!"

■ Big no-nos: No smoking in kosher restaurants on the Sabbath. Don't demand milk in your coffee hotel restaurants are all kosher and don't serve dairy products with meat. Don't joke or bridle at the airport security checks: those guys have no sense of humour, but they are there for your good.

Nasty surprises: Like Eilat flies, "direct" Israelis are pushy and in your face.

FACT FILE

travelled to Coral Beach, Eilat, with Club Med (0171-581 Li61), which offers Sunday departures from Luton and Monday departures from Heathrow to Ovda, from

Fires, which include flights, transfers, full board (including drinks with meals), sports and sports tuition, children's clubs. entertainments and insurance, start at £606 (adult), £541 (12-17 years), £434 (6-11), £366 (2-5 years) for one week. Club Med also offers free stays for children at off-peak times, Coral Beach is closed for refurbishment and opens on

Israeli music — Europop but worse -- more Falaiel Fools than Spice Girls. Not to be missed: Scuba-

diving, with dolphins at Dolphin

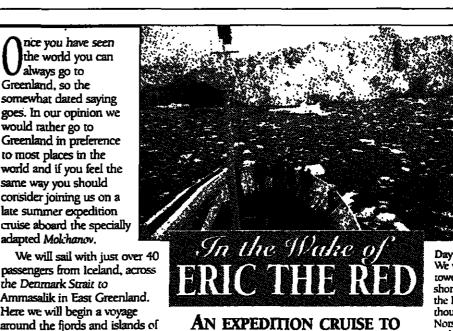
Reef. Simulating freefall over a jet engine at Airodium. Camel-trek into King Solomon's Wadi. ■ Way to go: Only El Al (0171-957 4100) runs scheduled flights direct to Ovda airport, 60 mins drive to Eilat, from £324. Unijet (0990 114114) offers £119 return charter

fares from Gatwick. If flying from

Israel, call domestic carrier Arkia

(00 972 3690 3472). ■ Any good packages? Peltours (0181-343 0590) currently has best deal: £229pp for a week B&B. Thomson, through Portland Direct (0990 002200), charges £295 for a week B&B at Hotel Caesar. For luxury, Longwood Travel (0181-551 4494) offers the best price for a week at King Solomon Palace (£369) or at the Dan Hotel (£479). ■ Dull but essential: No visas necessary for Israel. For daytrips into Egypt or Jordan, visas are obtained on the spot. Don't get your passport stamped, to avoid problems entering other countries.

SUSANNAH JOWITT



AN EXPEDITION CRUISE TO SOUTHERN GREENLAND ABOARD THE PROFESSOR MOLCHANOV

5th to 15th September 1998



Looking after the day to day programme aboard will be the expedition leader and his team. There will be no formal entertainment, but the expedition team will organise briefings and talks and the library will be equipped with a good selection of reading and board/card games. For our forays ashore we will use the vessel's Zodiac craft allowing us great Besibility and the ability to reach otherwise inaccessible places with great ease. This is a voyage undertaken in the spirit of discovery, with a view to making your experience an extraordinary one.

ITINERARY IN BRIEF

Accommodating a maximum of 52 passengers, the Professor Molchanov is 233 Day 1 London to Reykjavik. Early afternoon flight with Icelandair. Drive to feet in length, has a displacement of 2140 the Molchanov at nearby Keflavik Embark and sail.

Day 2 At sea. Crossing the Denmark

Day 3 Ammasalik, Situated on an island which lies across the mouth of a fjord, Ammasalik is the main population centre on the vast East Greenland Coast. The town and surrounding region supports approximately 5,000 souls in an extraordinarily beautiful area. There will be an opportunity to explore the town and also for a walk through some stunning scenery of lakes and waterfalls.

The walkers will rejoin the repositioned

Day 4 Sermilik Fjord. A day of exploration in this vast fjord looking out for narwhals and icebergs. We will also visit a small settlement. Days 5 & 6 South East

vessel in Sermilik Fjord.

Greenland Coast, Today this magnificent, deeply indented and ice-covered coastline is uninhabited. We will make a couple of forays ashore in the ice-free places such as Skjoldungen and Tingmiarmuit, where we will find remains of old Eskimo settlements. Day 7 Prins Christian's Sund.

We will enter this fjord with its towering mountainous sides as a short-cut to the West Coast and the Herjolfsnaes settlement. This is thought to be the place of the first Norse village in Greenland. See the 13th century church which was excavated in the 1920's and some well preserved examples of Norse clothing which were discovered in the permatrost under the church. This was probably the first trading

post in Greenland and dates back to the 10th century. Day 8 Unartoq Island/Nanortalik. On the island of Unartog you can swim and laze in Greenland's finest natural hot springs (42°C) amidst wonderful scenery in its autumnal colours. Later visit the largest collection of Inuit ruins in West Greenland. Time permitting we will also visit Nanonalik, a charming town with a delightful picture-postcard harbour, set against the immense granite peaks and spires of the surrounding mountains. Days 9 & 10 At sea. Excellent opportunities to see the migration of the northern birds and the chance of wimessing the splendour of the Northern Lights. Day 11 Keflavik to London, Disembark after breakfast and return to London with lcelandair, arriving in the late morning.

Prices per person from £1895 in a twin bedded cabin and from £2395 for a single cabin.

Price includes: Economy class air travel, 10 nights aboard the Prof Mokhanov on full board, shore excursions, entrance fees, transfers, landing fees, port taxes, expedition suaff, UK departure wx. Not included: Travel insurance, airport taxes,

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SKI WEEKEND: TAKING TE

Sloping off in a class of their own



Don't say cheese, say fromage: some members of the junior ski school at Val d'Isère line up with their instructor to be immortalised in their class photograph; extra courses are organised in many resorts during the school holidays

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Or write quoting ref: EK221197 to: Cox & Kings Travel Ltd., Gordon House, 10 Greencoat Place. London SW1P 1PH



Choose a resort which is friendly to families and you can feel sure your children

will be in safe

hands, says Felice Eyston

t was the nightmare of every skiing parent. I was on an icy mountain A road in the gathering dusk standing beside a bro-ken-down hire car. My children would be waiting for me at the ski school, by now deserted, in the small French resort of Vaujany, at least a half-a-dozen bends away on the road above me.

Six hours earlier, in glorious April sunshine, I had left my youngest son, Barney, in the kindergarten and Max, eight, with his ski class, before going to explore a neighbouring resort. I planned to return in plenty of time to retrieve them both at 4pm. But a sudden change in the weather covered the approach road with 18 inches of fresh snow.
I had fixed chains, but

halfway back one of them snapped and wrapped itself around the axie. By the time I reached my hotel on foot — cold, sodden and concerned darkness had fallen.

My worry was needless. The ski teacher had contacted the English nanny from Ski Peak,

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Learning about the snow business: children in the kindergarten at Avoriaz get to play around with toboggans

scooped up the boys and there they were, fed and watered, and happily playing before bedtime. It was a dramatic reminder that absolutely no aspect of a family skiing holiday should be left to chance. The younger your children, the more important it is to choose a resort and a tour operator geared towards

£249 £259 £289

£289

£299

tive villages which, typically, have onion-domed churches. gentle slopes and family-run hotels. France offers some of the best-equipped creches in the Alps, with sparkling nurs-eries and fenced-off outdoor play areas. Although my top three family resorts are in France. I have encountered surly staff there which can more than offset a kindergarten's good points. It is not unusual to see weary parents (myself included) desperately

trying to deposit their unwill-ing — and often screaming — offspring at a kindergarten. In Italy, three generations of the same family tend to holi-day together, with the result that creche facilities are usually non-existent. So unless you can take along a nanny or granny, you are probably better advised to look elsewhere. Switzerland has higher prices, although sterling's strength has made it more affordable this year, and the wonderfully efficient staff make you feel that the extra cost is justified.

Your first task is to to select

a country. Austria has attrac-

A newcomer to the British family skiing market is Nor-way, which is fast becoming one of the most child-friendly countries. Safety is taken seri-ously here, with helinets actively encouraged and children's ski areas closed to adults. Isabella, my 18-month-old daughter, loved the Troil Club kindergarten in Geilo, where each day she was swept up

into the ample arms of a smiling Norwegian girl - and forgot about me as soon as her

back was turned. The ski school was well organised and all the instructors spoke good English. To the delight of my six-year-old, Barney, all the members of his class were given colourful Lycra Viking hats to cover their helmets.

da and the United States is a long way ahead of the Alpine equivalent. Each resort has facilities for all ages, the staff really seem to make time for your child and the kinder-gartens are always flexible.

• Felice Eyston is co-editor of the Good Skiing & Snowboarding Guide 1998 (Which Books, £15.99). She has three children aged between two and nine, and three stepchildren aged between 16 and 24.

GETTING THE E

HAVING picked your resort. you must then decide where to stay. Chalets offer the most practical solution for a family wishing to provide tea after skiing followed by an early children's supper.

It may be cheaper to rent an apartment, but the downside is that someone has to do the shopping and cooking while at the same time trying to enjoy a

Staying in a hotel can involve expensive extras such as bar or minibar. And it is

Vaujany (France)

TOP RESORTS

sterilisers are bulky to take along, so check they are pro-vided. Trying to buy your usual brand of nappies or milk formula in a resort can be difficult, and the French do not appear to use baby wipes.

THE ideal age to learn to ski. A tour operator's "ski school escort service" or afternoon "kids' club" is invaluable. Under this system, nannies pick children up from ski school for lunch and then either deliver them back at lessons in the afternoon or entertain them with making snowmen, walks, tobogganing, ice-skating and games until the end of the adults'

THEY will need ski courses or snowboarding lessons. Club Med was the first to run evening clubs so parents could relax before dinner. Other

tour operators are following, Confinued on page 29



hardly a relaxing experience if

you have to spend your time preventing your little ones from disturbing other guests.

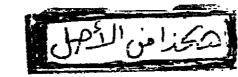
AS expert care is required, nannies employed by special-ist tour operators are the best solution. Baby accessories

such as cots, potties, baby alarms, bottle-warmers and

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D SATE REDAY NOWEMBER DA



I WEEKEND: TAKING THE CHILDREN

Child's play on the nursery slopes

Jane Owen whisks her daughters off for an Alpine odyssey — taking care that they are not witness to her first skiing efforts in eight years

of a red run in St Anton on my first morning's And I am sharing this experience with a group of strangers: company, the head of a record company, an accountant to the

You get the picture: Big Cheeses with wobbly kneeses. We share a common bond: we ali have children.

In fact, we all have small children, many of whom have never before skied, and we all want to ski - so we have chosen a holiday with one of several companies now trying to meet the needs of the family. I am the exception because I am a single parent.

Like me, my children are robust, but I have never been happy about letting them out of my sight on holiday since the time Rose, then aged three, managed to open the window of her fourth-floor bedroom and crawl out on to the parapet where she was spotted by a couple in a neighbouring hotel, waving happily. I was in the dining room downstairs. and the children were on listening service to the hotel

ack on the infernal (well, freezing) mountain. Rose, now seven, and Miranda, six, are several lift rides away on the nursery slopes with a nice instructor (French and noncombative) and a nanny from the Mark Warner Chalethotel

Fears about their safety are momentarily superseded by selfish fear of the slope in front with the rep shouting: "It's great, nobody else is here!" Well, of course — nobody else is stupid enough to ski in a

white-out with slushy snow.

I have a spectacular 30metre fall, bounce - and then cheer up, as I have beaten

everyone else to the bottom. Come lunchtime, Rose and our chalet by the nanny. I wobble across to Hospiz-Alm in St Christoph, where glorious young men in leather britches serve gargantuan platters — the spare ribs look

OP RESORTS

. . .

STUS YEAR OLD

140

like half a pig.

Of all the lunch places in the area, this is the best, and it has a built-in, adult-sized slide



Jane Owen with daughters Miranda and Rose, plus playmate Lucy and grandfather

down to the loos. Post-lunch and glühwein, I slip down (OK, I tumble and fall down) to the nursery slopes, where Rose and Miranda are doing pizza pies, known as snow ploughs in my day. No ski sticks of course, and quite

A nanny, spotting me lurking near the nursery slopes pretending that I am waxing my skis/testing my bindings/doing warm-up exercises, patiently explains, using all her copious diplomatic skills, that Rose and Miranda are very happy.

They can choose sledging or snowman-making or anything else during the afternoon and should anything happen to them — which it won't — they will be able to reach me. OK. OK, so I should stop

interfering.

All children are collected atabout 4 o'clock whether or not the parents have been interfering. By this time, the ski boots and the children are in dry clothes. Magically.

I have had nothing to do with this laborious process. Parents bring offspring to high tea at five ish, all prepared and set out by the nannies (the tea, that is). Bath, reading and bed for

Rose and Miranda, and when

FACT FILE Jane Owen travelled with Mark Warner Holidays (0171-393 3168).

Prices at the Chalethotel Rosanna, St Anton. which sleeps up to 89, start at E399 for one week per adult (based on two sharing a room, including flights, accommodation half-board and transfers) and rise to £787

during school half-term olidays in February. Cost for a child between the ages of 2 and 15, sharing less than the adult price Ski and boot hire from Ski Sport Fauner, St Anton a Arlberg Tirol, Austria (00 43 5446 2413) costs £64 per child and £95 per adult.

appear downstairs for my evening meal with the grownups - normally I eat with the makes me "sign on" to indicate that I require babysitting, so that she will listen outside the children's door when she does her rounds every quarter of an

Rose and Miranda have already made Best Priends with Lucy, another child staying in the chalethotel, on the coach from the airport (children's videos all the way, much to the disgust of some of the child-free guests) and so I guess they might try to visit her while the grown-ups are revelling downstairs. No way. They are sound asleep, worn out by the skiing.

Older children — and mine on one evening when they were not completely exhausted

— watch videos in the nursery while their parents dine downstairs.

Aprés ski ... perhaps not. I felt too ancient, and anyway the company at the chalet was

Some parents spend one day towards the end of the week skiing with the children. I vow never to let Rose and Miranda see me ski. It would put them off for life. And terrify them. So. while mums and dads whirl down slopes with little people between their legs, Rose and Miranda and I take a day out to build snowmen

Parents (and one set of grandparents) l spoke to gave almost full marks to this childand-parent-friendly holiday. The only complaints were the quality of the inclusive wine (staggering in every sense) and the fact that the charter flight was a day late on the return



Never too young to start: and when children tire of the slopes, they can always go sledging or make a snowman

Continued from page 28 with Snowbizz Vacances (01778 341455) offering a Junior Ski Club for six to ten-year-olds. The Ski Club of Great Britain (0181-410 2000) has "specials" in the school holidays and at half-term. Top Ski (00 334 7906 1480) in Val d'Isère arranges courses for children: The Thomson British Ski Academy in Les France (01932 242882) is for budding racers.

THE WAGETS THE resort to suit them and you will have plenty of après-

ski, but not all of it at exorbitant prices. Val d'Isère. Courchevel, St Antion and Verbier are the hottest resorts for this age group. Club Med (0171-581 1161) has a flexible programme for teenagers during the French school holidays and McGarry's Teen Top Race Clinics (0181-399 5823) are held in Châtel.

staffed by qualified nannies,



Young skiers are high on the agenda at many resorts

TOUR operator crèches generally take over the whole floor of an apartment or chalet, or a large hotel room. They are

and most will care for children from six months to six years of age. The opening hours are approximately 9am to 4.30pm. A good crèche should provide all the baby hardware, as well as toys, games, materials for creative play, books and videos. Before booking a nanny service you need to ask: Is the company offering its own service with an NNEB or equivalent qualified nanny, or

> garten in disguise? Is the service for five or six days? As a week's holiday constitutes six full days, childcare needs to cover the whole period, otherwise you will be left holding the baby. • is lunch provided? It is inconvenient to have to collect your children at lunchtime and return them afterwards. particularly in a large ski area. At the best creches, staff escort children from morning ski school, give them lunch, and either return them to their class or care for them until the

is the crèche the local kinder-

end of the day. Check how many children are looked after by each nanny. Ratios of nannies to children vary, with operators quoting an average of one namny to two or three babies (under two years), or one namny to three or four children (aged two to five).

 Some tour operators employ private nannies who might ideally be shared by two families. The nanny will come to your chalet with toys and games, take your children for walks and cook lunch.

• If you are staying in a chalet, the staff will normally prepare an early supper for children and your tour operator or the local tourist office should be able to arrange evening babysitting.

CHECHES AND KINDERGARTERS

THESE may be less flexible than the tour operator versions, and staff fluency in English varies, I was 15 minutes late taking my son to a crèche in France and was told that he therefore could not join the morning session and should return after lunch. which meant no skiing for me.

The North American kindergartens are the leaders by a long stretch, although one French resort is their equal: the state-of-the-art Garderie in Vaujany. Here children can be dropped off and collected at any time of day, and older children are accompanied between crèche and ski school.

WHAT TO TAKE WHEN taking children for the

first time, borrow clothing from friends and hire boots and skis in the resort. But it is worth investing in a warm ski jacket which is useful for the journey, after skiing and at home. A jacket and salopettes are more flexible than a onepiece suit and essentials include Thinsulate or Gore-Tex mittens, a hat and goggles. Helmets are vital for pre-teens, and do not send your child out skiing with suncream of less than factor 15, whatever the weather.

In North America, you will almost definitely experience much lower temperatures than in Europe, with the east coast resorts and Canada the coldest of all. Your children will need glove liners to wear under mittens, plus thermal vests and long johns or an allin-one fleece.

The Canadian skiwear manufacturer Couloir is known for its scientific clothing for adults, and you can now buy child-sized versions in branches of Snow & Rock (mail order: 01932 569569) at £99.95 for a one-piece suit.

SURVINING FLYING is the quickest, but often the most stressful, way to travel. Avoid resorts with long airport-transfer times. Driving to the French Alps may be easier and cheaper — with two drivers you can tackle the journey in a single day. Eurostar (0345 303030) is a serious contender with a daytime Saturday service from Waterloo to Moûtiers and

Bourg-St-Maurice. If you are hiring a car at the other end, take your own baby seat. The extra rental cost is outrageous and the seat provided is rarely the right size.

The following tour operators have a Airtours (01706 260000) Snowflake Club at Les Deux Alpes five

days a week. ■ Clob Med (017)-581 1160 Sixteen holiday villages with own creches and ski schools six days a week. Cot and

potty provided in every bedroom, sterilisers and food mixers available. ■ Collineige (01276 2426.2)
Small, flexible operator to Chamonix
Valley with a nanny and local au pair. ■ Crystal (0181-399 5144)

Nanny service five days a week in 13 resorts. One night's free babysitting. Escort service, lunchtime care for older children. ■ Inghams (0181-780 4444) Shared nanny service in II resorts five to six days per week. Private nannies available Mark Warner (0171-393 3131)

Crèches in six resorts six days per week. Childminding and ski school escort service. Free evening babysitting service. Meriski (01451 844788) Crèche in Méribel six days per week with escort service. Private nannies available.

■ Neilson (0990 994444) Kindergarten in four resorts six days per week. Chalet manny service in three resorts.

OPERATORS

Powder Byrne (0181-871 3300) Free crèche for hotel guests in Flims; also in Grindelwald and Zermatt part of the season. Ski school escort service. Babysitting and private nannies available. Silver Ski (01622 735544) Creche at La Plagne six days a week, with

escort service.

Simply Ski (0181-742 2541)

Creches at Montchavin and Courchevel
1300. Clubs for older children, with ski school escorting and lunch. Private nanny service in Verbier. Babysitting one day per week in Courchevel and Montchavin. ■ The Ski Company (0171-730 9600)

Au pairs during high season. Children's supper and free babysitting.

Ski Esprit (01252 616789) Specialist family operator with creches six days a week in six resorts. Ski Sprites ski lessons five days a week. Ski school escort service with lunch and activities. One night's free babysitting.

■ Ski Famille (01223 363777)

Free creche in each of the five chalets in Les Gets on five days per week. lunch provided if required. Ski school escon service on the sixth day.

Creches in Les Gets and Söll six days a week. Escort service and after-skiing activities five days a week. Free child supervision six evenings per week. ■ Ski Olympic (01302 390120) Flexible service with creche with lunch in three resorts for six days per week. Ski Peak (01252 794941) Specialist operator to Vaujany with flexible crèche six days a week. Children's supper and babysitting by arrangement. ■ Ski Scott Dunn (0181-767 0202) Creche in Courchevel 1850. six days a

week with lunch. Escort service for creche. ski school and ski kindergarten. Private nanny service in Val d'Isère. Méribel and ■ Snowbizz Vacances (01778 341455) Flexible creche in Puy-St-Vincent six days per week, children bring their own lunch. Kids' club six evenings per week. ■ Snowline Holidays (0181-870-4807) Nanny service in chalets and hotel in Champoussin including lunch. Thomson (0990 329329)

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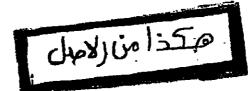


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Eyes left dedicated birders flock together in large numbers whatever the season, creating a spectacle of themselves

Dawn chorus on a wing and a prayer

n the hour before daybreak, darkness intensifies, the insects fall silent, and The Gambia's tropical pungency declines to no more than a delicate, anaemic trace. The streets are lifeless. Anyone with a mind to be up at this time of the morning could claim dominion over Banjul, for even the night-watchmen are asleep. curled tight in shuttered shop

Driving through the capital in the open back of a Land Rover, I have no such design. My primary purpose is to reach Lamin Lodge, a rustic riverside restaurant, before first light. With the eastern sky beginning to lighten, the vehicle's progress is ticked away by the pendulum swing of the binoculars dangling from my neck.

The lodge is a 30-minute drive south of Banjul, along the airport road and then a short stretch of

rutted dirt track. Eventually it dozen more birds while we struggle appears ahead of us: an inky, to look up the parakeets in our bird ramshackle silhouette etched against the blossoming dawn.

On foot, I am directed across a pier to a creaky, Swiss Family Robinson piece of architecture built on two stilts over water. I am soon joined by 30 other tourists collected from a succession of beachside resorts and we sit hushed, sipping coffee and listening to the tentative first notes of the dawn chorus.

When there is enough light, we are ushered into a trio of dug-outs fashioned from the trunks of the kapok, Africa's largest tree, and cast off into what is now revealed to be a broad mangrove creek. The tide is steadily rolling in and the oarsmen - one to a boat - labour against it as they paddle us to midstream. Our departure is heralded by a fly-past of rose-necked parakeets

Solomon, our guide, identifies a

books. With a lifetime of experience, he can instantly identify species by their jizz — an instinctive amalgam of shape, sound and movement. Despite our more analytical approach, we never catch him out.

The mangrove channels fraying

both banks of the River Gambia

have contributed to this tiny nation's legend among international birdwatchers. More than 200 species (out of The Gambia's total of 540) have been recorded within these labyrinthine waterways. Some of the birds are familiar, either winter migrants from Europe (accounting for a third of the

common themes - pigeons, pied crows, black magpies and nine types There are also plenty of African

specialities. For many of the partici-

country's species) or variations on

pants, this voyage delivers first sightings of the violet muraco, the African harrier hawk and, engaged in a memorable mid-air tussle with a vociferous mob of grey-headed

gulls, the palm-nut vulture.

s the sun lifts clear of the mangroves, the dawn chorus loses momentum and the avian traffic above us begins to ease. The boats glide drowsily forward. Solomon sits alert, picking out flutterings on either bank. Then, close to an islet, he stops the oarsmen, silences our idle chatter and points into the undergrowth.

The significance of what is going on is initially apparent only to the fundamentalist birders among us. Their urgent interest overwhelms any instincts to keep the boats on a steady keel. Focusing through binoculars, they lean and bob in search

Who's a pretty boy then: male rose-necked parakeet, inhabitant of The Gambia of a clean view through the mess of vegetation; the dug-outs rock

precariously. I am slow to pick out the object of all this attention. Some moments pass before I spot a large eye gazing out from among the chaotic man-grove roots, and I am gradually able to decipher the form of our quarry. My field guide confirms it is, as Solomon assures us, a rarely seen

white-backed night heron. At the back of my boat, a pinkfaced twitcher from Yorkshire de-clares himself to be "dead chuffed" with the encounter. This is his second visit to The Gambia. He is already planning to come back for thirds. "I see something new every time," he said. "This is the birding gateway to Africa."

It is this gathering reputation that has encouraged The Gambia's tourist industry to begin developing ecotourism alongside the country

well established package tours. The two are not mutually exclusive.

Paradise for twitchers: violet touraco, left, an African speciality, and the rarely seen white-backed night heron, right

In the grounds of the Atlantic Hotel, I stalk away from the odours of suntan lotion and the splashes of divers in the swimming pool to explore the hotel's own bird garden. Here is a dappled, peaceful place all a-flitter with firefinches and redcheeked cordon-bleus. In this nursery for budding twitchers, a whole new vocabulary can be learnt and from here it is but a short step to dedicated birding safaris and 5am

wake-up calls. In the hotel lobby, the latest batch of package arrivals are checking in and I view them with fresh understanding. After all, what is the modern tour if not the latest incarnation of an ancient, natural instinct? When the European winter bites, fly south to Africa.

RICHARD NEWTON

FACT FILE

Richard Newton travelled with The Gambia Experience (01703 730888). The company operates birdwatching tours escorted by Clive Barlow, author of Field Guide to Birds of the Gambia (Pica Press. £26). The tours use the Banjul-based agent West African Tours.

A one-week birdwatching tour costs £774 between January



1-21. Prices rise to £866 at Easter, to include flights, all transport, two nights at the Atlantic Hotel and camp hut accommodation, on a half-board basis.

While birdwatching is a year-round activity in The Gambia, the best times to go are before the rains (which come in June), or during the winter months (Nov-Jan) for the best viewing of migrants.

Watch out for the bald spot

Skiing will bring more visitors to Whistler this winter than ever before. Most will miss the sign to Squamish, Whistler's poorer neighbour, on the Sea to Sky Highway 40 miles north of Vancouver. Yet the dense hemlock, fir and cedar forest abutting Route 99 conceals a spectacle worthy of a trip to the

British Columbian coast. Every year, between November and March, the world's greatest concentration of bald eagles descends on a few miles of the Squamish River. The birds come in their thousands from Alaska, the Yukon, northern British Columbia, Montana and Arizona, flying up to 4,000 miles at summer's end to feast on returning chum salmon. About 80 per cent of these eagles congregate on a six-mile stretch of the river and its tributaries, the Cheakamus and Mamquam. In 1994, 3,769 eagles were counted here on a single January day — the highest concentration of bald eagles in the world.

Bald eagles are rare birds. Though one of the United

Golden

Birders who yearn to see a bald eagle should visit the Squamish River, British Columbia, in winter

States's favourite symbols of shutter releases. One of my strength and stability, the birds were hunted and poisoned to near-extinction before the 1960s. Even today few people, bird enthusiasts included, have ever seen a baid eagle so it is quite a thrill to see several, let alone hundreds, in a single day. The eagles, for their part, seem to be getting used to the sight of tourists dressed in orange life-jackets and perched precariously on the edge of lurid yellow rafts.

It is a typically damp, raw Squamish morning when we go eagle-spotting. The air is rank from the smell of rotting salmon on the gravel bars the fish die in their hundreds of thousands after the long iourney up the river to spawn. Two groups of visitors spot their first bald eagle within minutes of taking to the water. The excitement appears to be one-sided as the bird sits unmoved by the noise of

frantic whispers and a dozen

China

fellow passengers wonders whether the eagle has seen us. Our guide explains that an eagle can see a rabbit move from a mile away, and that an eagle flying at 1,000 feet can see previover an area of three square miles. The chances are it spotted us half an hour

Biologists from the Na-ture Conservancy of Canada have been studying the eagles' habits for four winters. The birds have been coming since the salmon began arriving to spawn long before Captain George Vancouver set foot here in 1792: probably before the Squohomish people began hunting in the valley they called Squamish, or "mother of the wind".

The Squamish is one of the few rivers that has a late chum run. The spoils represent a huge source of food accessible

A classic tour of the Middle

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expert and specialists

from November through to February on a river that does not freeze. For the next three months eagles will daily gorge themselves, devouring up to a tenth of their body weight in

fish - as much as half a kilo. By the end of February the feast is over, but a few eagles remain in the valley for the summer. Breeding birds defend large territories to raise their young. In winter, territories break down, amply illustrated by cottonwoods wilting under the weight of so many raptors, six or seven to a tree,

perched like chandeliers. From a raft it is hard to miss some of their habits. Eagles are creatures of precision. While gulls rip indiscriminately through rotting salmon carcasses, bald eagles first eat the eyes and then, via a swift incision, scoop out the brain. They appear to be little bothered by gulls and crows. A few take flight at the sight of our bright rafts but most remain regally on their perches, eye-

ing their next meal.
Pairs mate for life, though affairs are possible — usually in the first year of "marriage", according to biologists. Yournger eagles (identified by their lack of white head plumage — bald eagles minus the bald spot) sit on lower branches, apparently leaving better vantage points for older birds.

By journey's end, estimates of bald eagles seen vary be-tween 500 and 800 depending on which boat's crew you believe. But exact numbers do not matter — this is one of the great sights of nature.

NEVILLE JUDD



Human encroachment on the cagles' habitat is an important part of scientists research. Rafting is considered one of the less obtrusive ways of seeing them; there are also eagle watching programmes on loot with volunteer guides.

Eagles are best seen from viewing shelters on the Squamish River at Brackendale, north of Squamish off Highway 99. Eagle warden volunteers are available 9:30am-3:30pm on weekends from December 13 to February 15.

For more information, including accommodati details, call the Squamish Chamber of Commerce (00) 604 892 9244). The Canadian Outback Adventure Company (00) 800 565 8735) offers guided river raft trips for about £45

offers "Eagle Festival" two-night packages with Vancouver hotel ■ Brackendale-bas Surwolf Outdoor Centre (001 604 898 1537) offers a "Sleep with Eagles"

(£60 with transport) including lunch. It also

seep with cages package for about £85 for two (double occupancy), with cabin accommodation and float trip. ■ The eagle population peaks in early January, when Brackendale hosts the month-long Winter Eagle Contin-long Winter Eagle

Squamish is between Vancouver and Whistler and less than an hour's drive on Highway 99 from either. It is better known to climbers for the Stawamus Chief, the world's second largest monolith after the Rock of Gibraltar.



Spot the birdie: bald eagles can see their prey over an area of three square miles

and we take pride in being able to show you parts of it unseen by other tour groups. In Beijing after the grandeur of the Forbidden City and the Temple of Heaven we take our guests on

a rickshaw tour of the hutongs or back streets for a more intimate view of domestic life. There is a unique visit to the charming Gongwangfu Palace where we take tea in its superb opera house. At the Great Wall we opt for a picnic at Jinshanling, miles from the crowds and the vendors. In Guilin, we head for the Yiaoshan Mountain for the most magnificient views over the undulating hills around Guilin. All these are in addition to the usual highlights of the Middle Kingdom - Xian's Terracotta Army,

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FOR most birders the dream destination has to be the Seychelles. With 115 islands to choose from, the best choice is a combination of Mahe, Praslin and La Digue. From here, additional day excursions can be made to Cousin and Aride. For the unforgettable experience of seeing more than a million sooty terms on their nests, an overnight stay

on Bird Island is recommended. However, the ultimate "Grip-off" (slang for incurring the envy of all your colleagues) is to see the Seychelles magpie robin on Cousin or Fregate. With just 40 or so left in the wild, this is now one of the world's rarest birds.

It is only recently that The Gambia's potential for bird-watching has been fully recognised. The Abuko Forest,

only eight miles from the capital of Banjul, combines the ingredients of tropical forest, lily-covered pools and savannah grassland. Among the most attractive birds here are the kinglish-

ers including giant, pygmy and pied. Nearly one million Britons travel to Florida every year although relatively few will be looking for birds. Yet just next to the Cape Kennedy space centre is the extensive Merritt Island National Wildlife Refuge, where many hundreds of herons and egrets nest. This is also a staging post for migrant wading birds that on their journeys to

and from South America, To escape completely from the depths of winter and also experience the holiday of a lifetime, the best choice must be Australia. The state of Queensland, in particular, offers a remarkable range of habitats with tropical forests and coral reefs meeting at the coastline near Cairns. Among the most elusive forest birds is the southern cassowary - an ostrich-like species with a reputation for ferocious attacks on

WHERE TO SPOT A BIRD IN WINTER

humans who get too close. A three-week trip to Australia can yield a list of nearly 400 species. One highlight is a visit to the Great Barrier Reef, and specifically to the tiny coral sand spit called Michelmas Cay. Here you will land in the middle of a massive colony of sea birds, including common noddies.

Closer to home are two excellent lakes that lie about 80 miles east of

Paris. The Lac Der du Chantecoq and Lac de la Foret d'Orient were built to take excess water from the rivers Marne and Seine so flooding in Paris could be prevented. Now they are the winter home for several white-tailed sea eagles and up to 300 common cranes. This is a popular choice for weekend breaks by car. But be warned: it can be cold, and visitors should take thermal clothing.

KEITH BETTON

Specialist bird-patching holiday orpectatis orra-patienting notically companies include: Naturerrek (01962 733051); Birdquest (01254 826317); Wildwings (0117-984 8040); Sunbird (01767 682969); Limosa (01263 578143); Ornitholodays (01243 864513).

Star trekkers' rewarding mission



SATURDAY NOVEMBER 210

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Mike Gerrard braves the wrath of a pride of lions

on an African

adventure - all for a worthy cause

Rita Hamilton-Burgin felt. A different word might have been expected from someone who had just walked 120 miles in six days in temperatures of up to 120 degrees, especially as she had never before done anything more energetic than walking her dogs in West Sussex. But she was emphatic: "You feel you've got Airica coming up through the soles of your feet."

Rita and her husband Stephen, a cabinet-maker, had joined myself and 23 others for a sponsored walk in the Great Rift Valley in Tanzania, while 18 more were nearby doing a sponsored climb to the top of Mount Kilimanjaro.

Together, the two groups raised £40,000 for the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and that is a small proportion of the hundreds of thousands of pounds being raised these days for charities through sponsored hikes and bike

From Ireland to China from Iceland to Uganda, today's holiday trend is to combine a good time with a

It was a tough time, too, as those on Trek Tanzania discovered. It was unseasonably hot in September and even the Masai who accompanied the walk were complaining about

awalking group and dis two Masai guides. To reinforce the warning, a lion was heard roaring outside our first night's camp in the bush. A tent has never felt so flimsy, but the guards chased it away. At one time a Masai man had to kill a lion with his

bare hands before

he could become a group of them surrounding a lion at night, chanting and dancing as they closed in on the animal, until the would-be

warrior plunged in for the kill. It is one of the few Masai traditions to have died out, as we discovered while talking to our guides on the walk, or round the campfire at night. Our occasional pains — blisters, scratches from the fear-



The two groups that took part in Trek Tanzania, accompanied by Masai guides, raised £40,000 for the NSPCC. Donations are also made to local eye clinics, where sight-saving operations

upsets - were dwarfed by this and other delights: walking by a family of giraffe, past herds of zebra, visiting a Masai village in part of the Rift Valley The route took us through seldom seen by trekkers, lion territory, and no one was watching the sun rise in the allowed to stray from their morning, walking 20 miles

and then watching Dionyo Lengai, the Masai Mountain of God, an active volcano that rises 9.500ft towards the heavens.

By the time we passed beneath Lengai's ash-dark slopes, the end of our trek was in sight. That last day had been the toughest of all. We

warrior, a feat achieved by a rose with the sun, foot-slogged for hours over a desert-like scrub where shade was something we could only dream about, then our footsteps echoed over Lengai's hardened lava, where the white bones of cattle lay scorched by the sun.

Finally we reached the shade of an acacia tree and rested, exhausted, before hauling ourselves over the last small ridge to the camp, and





While crossing Tanzania on foot is exhausting, it also has its rewards, such as a giraffe sighting (left); trekkers take a break near the Mountain of God (right)

the promise of the cold river running beside it. It was the hardest walk of

ing week I have ever spent. I

looked at my £90 walking boots, and the cut-up bits of

old car tyre some of our Masai guides were wearing. my life, and the most reward-

I thought of the village school we visited, where there was no chalk for the blackboard, and of the eye clinic,

where we handed over a

cheque for \$5,000 (about £3,000): the NSPCC supports a local Masai project each year from the money raised. Our \$5,000 would pay for

more than 800 cataract operations, restoring the sight of

blind Masai. We may not have much ourselves, but compared with the people who live in places like rural Tanzania, to borrow a phrase from Paul Simon's song, we really have got diamonds on the soles of

our shoes. And by pounding the earth or pumping the pedals with them in a good cause, we can at least hope to make a bit of difference.

■ The NSPCC's Trek

£1,975, and you will be asked

Further information from Megan Munsell (0171-825 2605).

Diana dresses go on display to raise funds

You feel

you've got

Africa

coming up

through

your feet'

"SHE was a wonderful woman", said Maureen Rorech, whose collection of 14 dresses once owned by Diana, Princess of Wales, went on display at the Tampa Museum of Art in Florida this week, writes Tom Chesshyre.

Ms Rorech decided to exhibit the dresses, which she bought at a Christie's charity auction in June in London, to help raise funds for charities including AIDS, cancer and children's groups, and the Red

Among the dresses on display are: a blue silk dinner dress that the Princess wore when she danced with John Travolta at the White House: a burgundy velvet dinner dress which she wore to the preview of Back to the Future in 1985; and a classic white dinner dress by Catherine Walker first worn when Diana met the King and Queen of

Malaya in 1993. The dresses cost Ms Rorech, from Long Island in New York, \$870,000. "I was greatly saddened when Diana died," she said. "And I decided to use my collection to follow in her footsteps to raise money for deserving causes."

The display stays in Tam-pa until December 7 before moving to a museum in Athens in Georgia, and then Washington DC, early next year. It is scheduled to reach London in June 2000. More than 3,500 tickets at

\$11.50 (about £7) each have been sold in advance. Media attention has been lavish and on opening day the display room was packed. • Internet site: www.

princessdigowns.com Tampa Museum of Art: 001 813 274 8130



The Princess in blue silk

JOINING a charity

holiday generally involves paying a registration fee of £200-£300. You also commit yourself to raising a certain amount in donations and

sponsorship, usually £2,000-£3,000. The registration and sponsorship pays for all the costs of the trip, except for personal spending money. The remainder goes to the charity. Oxfam. for instance, raised £80,000 from one such holiday last spring, while Guide Dogs for the Blind benefited by £100,000 when 95 people joined their summer bike ride in Russia. Some of the charity treks and bike rides planned for 1998 include:

JAN 30-FEB 8 HELPS (01273 453511), Health **Education Literacy Population Services**; it supports and educates women and children in southern India. Charity walk in India covers 86 miles from Bangalore to Mysore. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,000.

National Deaf Children's Society (0171-490 8656). Bike ride through Jordan from Amman to Aqaba. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,000.

FEB 21-MARCH I The Children's Society (0171-278 5769). Egyptian Experience bike ride. Registration £250, sponsorship £1,975.

MARCH 7-15 and OCT 17-25 Norwood Ravenswood (0181-954 4555), charity for socially disadvantaged children. Kenya Experience cycling safari. Registration £400, sponsorship

NCH Action for Children (0171-704 7019). The Big Bike Ride, from the Pyramids to the Red Sea. Registration £220, sponsorship £2,000.

CHARITY BEGINS ON HOLIDAY

ASPIRE (0181-954 0701). the Association for Spinal Injury Research Rehabilitation and Reintegration. Trek from the Red Sea to the top of Mount Sinai. Registration: £195, sponsorship £2,000.

MARCH 28-APRIL 5 British Heart Foundation (0500 200 575). Jordan Desert Hike. Registration £250, sponsorship £2.150.

APRIL 25-MAY 3 Norwood Ravenswood (0282 954 4555). Bike ride from Mount Sinai to Jerusalem. Registration £400. sponsorship £2,000. Repeated in Oct.

MAY 30-JUNE 6 British Heart Foundation (0500 200 575). Iceland Bike Ride. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150.

MAY 31-JUNE 8 Scope (0500 575222). The Great Wall of China 60-mile hike. Registration £195. sponsorship £2.000.

Guide Dogs for the Blind (01539 735080). Crossing the Atlas Mountains. Deposit £220, sponsorship £2,000.

JULY 3-12 Friends of Russian Children (0171-404 7766). Helsinki to St Petersburg Bike Ride. £200 registration, £2,000 sponsorship -- or £3,500 if you sign up for the following ride.

Friends of Russian Children (0171-404 7766). St Petersburg to Moscow Bike

Ride, about 450 miles. £200 registration, £2,000 sponsorship.

JULY 31-AUGUST 9 Scope (0500 575222). The Russian Bike Away, from St Petersburg to Moscow. Registration £195. sponsorship £2,000.

SEPT 5-13 British Heart Foundation (0500) 200575). Greece bike ride from Mount

Olympus to Delphi, about 225 miles. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,150. OCTOBER

Leonard Cheshire (0141-332 i811). African Tracks, 250-mile bike ride across Uganda to raise money for disabled people. Registration £200, sponsorship £2,300. OCT 17-25

reduce the harm caused by drugs and alcohol. The Three Seas Cycle Challenge visits the Mediterranean. Dead Sea and Sea of Galilee. Registration £250, sponsorship £2,500. OCT 24-NOV I

apa (0171-251 5860), which works to

World ORT Union (0171-446 8500). a Jewish educational charity. Navigating the Bible bike ride, about 200 miles from the Dead Sea to the Red Sea, or a hike on the same Exodus route. Registration £300, sponsorship £2,200.

Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society (contact Dorothy MacKenzie, 0131-313 3828). The 7th Nazareth Hospital Bike Ride, about 220 miles through Galilee. Registration £150, sponsorship £2,000.

NOV 10-17 Guide Dogs for the Blind (01539 735080). Cycle across Cuba. Registration £230, sponsorship £2,000.

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The doomed ship that refuses to die

Tom

Chesshvre

visits a new

exhibition that

shows the ill-

fated Titanic

still captures imaginations

The largest collection of artefacts recovered from the Titanic went on show in St Petersburg, Florida, last week. More than 300 objects from the ill-fated ocean liner, which sank after hitting an iceberg on April 15, 1912, include chandeliers, diamond necklaces, a steward's jacket, bronze cherub and two bottles of champagne, remarkably still with their corks intact.

The exhibition, which runs until May 15 before moving to either Boston, Massachusetts. or San Diego, California, also has several displays detailing the circumstances in the runup to the sinking, in which almost 1,500 xople died, as well as models of the Titanic and newspaper reports from

Millvina Dean, a survivor who was nine weeks old at the time and now lives in Southampton, was at the opening of the Florida exhibition. "Although I can't remember a thing about the sinking I spent my whole live wondering about it, especially what happened to my father [who died. The exhibition explains it all very clearly," she says.

Advanced ticket sales suggest that the exhibition will be a hit: already more than 92,000 have been sold, and interest in the Titanic has been heightened recently by the publicity for the new Hollywood film Titanic, starring Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio, which had its British premiere last week



April 1912: the tug Vulcan pulls the huge, new liner Titanic away from the White Star company's Berth 44 at Southampton before the fateful crossing of the Atlantic

and is due to go on general release early next year.

George Tulloch, the presi-dent of RMS Titanic, the American company that holds the salvage rights to the

though we can expect 100,000 visitors a month — we seem to be experiencing some kind of Titanic-mania," he says.

Tours of the exhibition last about an hour and a half. One section has a re-creation of a Titanic and put the exhibition together, is very pleased with deck overlooking a star-filled the response. It looks as sky. "Isn't it wonderful," said

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(0171-631 8000) is offering a

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valley, Portugal, for £455 per

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visits, car hire, return flights

and airport transfers. Departs

from Heathrow or Gatwick

BEGINNING next Friday the Landmark London Hotel

any day next week.

British Airways (BA) 0345 222111

Jamie Peterson, aged 47, of Slough, Berkshire. "You feel like you could almost be there. I've discovered a lot about the

Titanic that I didn't know." There has been some concern about the taste of some of the souvenirs in the gift shop. A plastic drinking cup with a

Egypt

defy

lifebelt "floating" at the bot-tom was withdrawn before the opening, because organisers realised it might be considered offensive.

Another souvenir, which is still raising eyebrows, is a battery-operated inflatable Titanic, with inflatable iceberg, at \$19.99 (£11.75) for playing with in the bath. "It's bit sick," said Beatrice Penrith, 34, from Glasgow.

But Nannette Briggs, who was on holiday from Atlanta, "The whole exhibition strikes just the right balance. It was obviously a terrible

tragedy but it has been han-dled with sensitivity."

"Titanic: The Exhibition" is at the Florida International Museum (001 813 822 3693). Tickets cost \$13.95, seniors 65lus \$12.95, full-time students

MURDER most horrid: Woolcombe Bay Hotel (01271 870388). Woolcombe, Devon. invites you to deduce whodunnit next Friday. The murder mystery weekend includes two nights' half-board accommodation and full use of the health suite and sports facili-

ties for £145 per person. OUEST Worldwide (0181-547 3322) is offering reduced air fares to the Middle East until December 10. Returns from Heathrow to Abu Dhabi, Bahrain, Muscat and Doha cost from £324, excluding taxes.

☐ FRENCH Golf Holidays (01277 374374) is offering seven nights B&B accommodation at the Frégate Hotel, near Bandol, which has its own course overlooking the sea. The price of £475 includes buggy hire, one day on the Barbaroux course, and return crossings on Le Shuttle, based on four people sharing a car.

NEXT Saturday is your last chance for a reduced fare to Perth, Western Australia, British Airways and Oantas (0345) 747767) have combined to offer return flights for E749 per person, excluding tax. Departing daily from Heathrow via Bangkok or Singapore until Saturday, and resuming between January 21 and March

☐ FINE wine, good food and a spot of walking are offered on Winetrails' (01306 712111) tailor-made itineraries. For example: four nights B&B

visitors warnings £136 ÆA 198 BA

HUNDREDS of Britons are ignoring Foreign Office warnings to avoid Luxor after the massacre of 58 tourists on the Nile last Monday. Thomas Cook Holidays is

to continue with three tours this month. However, British Airways Holidays has taken Egypt off sale until the end of

TC Holidays also offered immediate repatriation to 140 customers in Egypt at the time of the massacre but only six took up the offer. The remaining 134 are continuing their holidays, with a party of 27 due in Luxor on Tuesday. The Foreign Office this

week "strongly advised" tour-ists to avoid the Luxor area until further notice. But Simon Laxton, general

manager of Thomas Cook Holidays, said: "We have made everybody aware of the FO advice but they still want to go to Luxor - so we are letting them."

Kuoni and Abercrombie & Kent are also allowing customers to travel but insist they sign a disclaimer. "There are a lot of people who still want to travel," a Kuoni spokes-woman said.

Several other firms have also temporarily abandoned tours. Saga Holidays has scrapped two departures and refunded or offered alternative holidays to 60 customers booked to travel.

Student's article in *The Times* wins new travel award



Tom Griffiths used his gap year to good effect: he saw the world from a different angle

year off to travel before university formed the basis of a Times article which has won Tom Griffiths the accolade of Young Travel Writer of the Year, Mr Griffiths, now 23, is the inaugural winner of the competition. sponsored by Travel South USA and the industry newspaper Travel Trade Gazette.

He used his gap year to good effect. He saw the world, wrote the book and has now collected a trophy. At 18, he considered himself too young to start university. He also wanted a break from studying.

After seven months' working at a McDonald's in Ips-wich, he was off: Los Angeles was followed by Hawaii, Fiji, Australia, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand. Mr Griffiths is only one of 200,000 British youngsters who take a gap year between school and university, but few

will have used their time so

well. His observations fuelled

the idea for the award-win-

ning article in The Times last

June and a book, Before You

How to fill that

Go, which is a rich vein of information for wannabe

Much advice was practical. from carrying multivitamins, to duplicating passport details and packing a medical kit, including sterilised needles.

Other tips were thoughtful: women, married or not, should carry a wedding ring to avoid unwanted attention; everyone should pack a sarong - useful as a towel, drying up cloth, sheet and wrap. On his return to Britain, Mr

Griffiths studied economics at. Manchester University. But the travel bug continued to bite. Russia and Canada have been ticked off the list, and he has eyes on South America while pursuing a career in

television. He wrote in The Times: "I have the self-belief and the self-confidence that I can do anything and succeed at whatever I do. It may sound arrogant, but that is what travel has done for me." He has been invited to give

travel talks and plans a second book, but says that paying bills has been tough, and the award is a timely filip.

was surprised when I heard that I had won the title," he said. "It is difficult slogging away with little money and having something like this has given me a huge boost."

Glenn Couvillon, managing director of Travel South USA. The overwhelming choice of our panel of judges, Tom writes with an enthusiasm and energy that is capti-vating. He embodies the very attributes for which the award was designed."

The trophy — and the prize of a holiday in the southern US — was presented to Mr Griffiths at the World Travel Market in London this week.

Seating on tall people

BOOKING seats next to the emergency exits could add nearly £500 to the holiday bill of a family flying to Florida, Tom Chesshyre and Steve Keenan write.

Thomson will charge customers £60 each way for four seats on Britannia Airways, its sister airline, on long-haul flights to destinations including Florida and the Caribbean. The move is being studied by rivals, including Airtours and First Choice.

If booked both ways by a family of four, the cost would be £480 - adding an average 25 per cent to the typical Florida holiday bill.

On short-haul flights to the Mediterranean, the seats which have 36in of space compared to 28-30in normally will cost £30 each way. Previously, they would have been offered to customers more than 6ft 4in tall. Thomson describes the move as "an additional service".

Charging for space is just one of several additional costs Thomson has introduced for services that, it could be argued, should be free. They include an executive check-in, costing £35, which speeds you through the check-in process to a special departure lounge, and pre-bookable seats, at £5 per person per flight, which guarantees that families sit together.

CHARGING extra for emergency exit seats was tried three years ago by Somak Holidays on charters to Kenya. The company charged up to E55 a seat for a year before introduc-ing a first-class cabin. Ash Sofat, the managing director. said: "They were always full."

Tour operators have since tried various ways of charging for extras which help alleviate the misery of a packed overnight charter flight. Airtours introduced pre-bookable seats a year ago, charging £10. It makes the same charge for a choice of meals.

Thomson says it will keep some emergency exit seats and those at the front of the plane for tall or disabled people. But tall people are upset that seats for which they were given preference are now being sold.

The Tall Persons Club for Great Britain and Ireland says the policy is unfair, and a spokesman for the menswear chain High & Mighty, said: "Emergency exit seats are important for tall people, who are important customers and should be looked after."

The Air Transport Users Council agrees. "It is unfortunate that seats that should go to people with long legs are going to those with money."
Under Civil Aviation Au-

thority rules, exit seats must be filled by able-bodied people in case of an emergency.

Links in

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Hong Kong ding-dong

AIR FARES to Hong Kong have gone Chinese crackers with one-way prices for the

New Year from £88. BA Holidays began the firesale, with three-night hotel/flights packages for £299; more than 2,000 holidays sold within days. Qantas Holidays then dropped the price to £275. Cathay Pacific offered a £549 fare for two.

The cheapest offer is from Campus Travel - one-way flights for £88 (returns, £176) to students or those under 26. The offers run from January I until February IS, and must be booked by November 27.
This is traditionally a quiet

sales period, and the posthandover hangover has also seen sales to Hong Kong fall.

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Battle of the peanut planes

There'll be tears on the Tarmac if BA

THREE small airlines are this weekend consolidating plans to counter a move by British Airways to poach their potential passengers by introducing cheap, no-frills flights next

The move by BA is a direct response to the success of easyJet. Debonair and Ryanair, who will be closely watching their giant rival for signs of anti-competitive

With profit margins so thin, the only way all will survive is by increasing the existing air travel market while paring administration costs.

The new BA subsidary airline will copy easyJet's operation in selling direct to the public and cutting out travel agents. easyJet has set the standard for no-frills flying. Staff are not paid wages: instead, they are paid 80p for

starts price war, says Steve Keenan every seat booked. The system

works both ways for the airline: customers seeking long-sold £29 seats are enthusiastically encouraged to buy higher-priced fares. The number of travellers at

Luton, where both easyJet and Debonair are based, has doubled in the past year. Stelios Haji-Ioannou, the chairman of easyJet, said: "If you reduce prices, people will fly more."

Passenger numbers on the Birmingham-Dublin route have quadrupled to 600.000 since Ryanair began the service in 1994. The biggest savings are on service, hence the "no-frills"

tag. None offer free hot drinks

or alcohol, or hot food - and

snacks are only of the muffin or peanut variety. The airlines use secondary

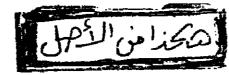
airports, such as Luton, Prestwick and Liverpool, which offer cheaper rates. Admin is kept to a minimum: easyJet has no paper files and accepts only credit/debit card payments - meaning cash in the bank within 24 hours.

BA PROMISES it will be "squeaky clean" in competing with the low-cost carriers. But there is a fine line between large airlines responding to the market and anti-competitive behaviour, especially when new carriers are still looking to make any profit. Of 80 airlines that started in Europe since 1993, all but 20 have failed. There is also a danger that in expanding their networks so fast, the no-frills airlines will come into conflict with each other. On December 12. Debonair is due to start services between Luton and Nice, in direct competition with easylet. Ryanair, looking to expand at Luton, wants to add to its continental network. -- currently just two routes to

The potential for conflict is there, and Debonair is already looking to sign co-operation deals with independent carriers abroad as a form of insurance. Its first, a partnership with Milan-based Azzurra Air, took off last month. There may be tears on the

Tarmac. After all, budget airlines are hardly in a position to start a price war, particularly with a BA offshoot.





AROUND THE WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE

It's a cottage called gîte

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WITH France back in favour among British holidaymakers. Brittany Ferries (0990 360360), which took over the Gites de France UK marketing last year, has frozen its prices for 1998 and added gites in several regions. Some of these are in the wine-growing areas of Burgundy, the Loire and Bordeaux, where owners will

taste and what to buy. A typical gite on a farm near Bergerac in Aquitaine costs from £55.30 for each of four holidaymakers for a week, and from £98.10 for two weeks. These prices include the ferry crossings.
If you are travelling to one

advise holidaymakers on the

best vineyards to visit, what to

of the more distant gites and staying there for a week or more. Brittany Ferries will offer one night's free family accommodation in a hotel en route on either the outward or return journey (but not if you use the short sea crossings).

Early bargains

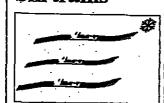
IF YOU can get away in early December or during the sec-ond and third weeks of January, you will be able to take advantage of some of the best sunshine and sightseeing bargains of the year.

You can gasp at the Taj Mahal, flying directly to Agra | resorts. Coaches leave Lon-

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS for a week (room only). This will cost £439 in early Decem-ber or £429 from January 5-11. Or unlock the mysteries of the Forbidden City on a six-night stay in Beijing. This will cost £399 in early December.

A Mexican holiday with three nights exploring Mayan ruins and three nights in high-rise Cancun costs £549 (room only) in mid-December and early January, when temperatures are far more pleasant than in steamy summer. These tours are all available through Kuoni Limited Editions (01306 740500).

Ski trains



EUROSTAR "Ski Saver" trains (0345 303030) leave London's Waterloo Station on Saturdays at 08.57 and Ashford at 10.06, and arrive at Mounters at 17.41 and Bourg-St-Maurice at 18.27 on the same day. The service begins on December 13 and runs until April 25. Return fares cost from £149-£199 and there is

For those who can face the journey of 15 hours or more, Eurolines coach services (0990 143219) are the cheapest way to travel to the Alpine

Guarding the Forbidden City: a fierce bronze lion in the Imperial Palace, Beijing

CITY BREAKS

FRANCÈ

SPECIALS

🕰 & ITALY

is a figuration of the forest of the second of the second

no charge for skis.

don's Victoria Coach Station on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays at 18.30, arriving at Grenoble the next morning at 10.15, Chambéry at 11.15 and Annecy at 12.30. The adult return fare is £97, and a further 52 will take you as far as Chamonix. There is a £4 fee for carrying skis on board and this service runs until March 31.

SINCE The Gambia's Banjul airport reopened last month after a million-dollar renovation, regular travellers, says The Gambia Experience (01703 730888), are already nostalgic for the old laid-back terminal, where porters took your luggage by hand and you could pass mevitable delays outside the airport by sunbathing and

offers twice-weekly departures costing from £199 return, flight only, and from £288-£384 for a week's B&B stay in a two-star beach hotel, making the tiny 30-by-200 mile country the cheapest guaranteed sizzling winter sunshine destination in the holiday brochures. Not everything has changed, however — yours is still likely to be the only aircraft on the runway and yes, it will probably also be late.

cating ice-cream. The firm

Flexible cities

A NEW programme of city and country breaks, Brief Encounters, has been

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launched by Simply Travel (0181-995 9323), the group that specialises in lesser-known Mediterranean resorts.

Offering only historical, luxury or smaller family-run hotels, and with flexible travel arrangements, Brief Encounters' 18 cities include Verona, Seville and Istanbul, as well as Paris, Salzburg and Amsterdam. A three-night B&B break to Istanbul staying in the small Celal Sultan Hotel, a converted traditional Ottoman house, costs between £360 and £440.

"Wandering" breaks to Andalucia, Majorca and Ireland are a variation on the city theme. In Majorca, a four-night break with two nights' B&B in its capital Palma, staying at the two-star Hotel Born, a converted loth-century palace, and another two nights in the tiny four-star Hotel Cala Sant Vicenç near Pollensa costs £404. This price also includes the flights and car hire for three days. These prices are valid through to April 3.

A TWICE-WEEKLY service to the Armenian capital of Yerevan by British Mediterranean Airways (01784 26630 0) is due to start on December 1. The fivehour flight, via Tbilisi in Georgia, will cost from £800 return. Yerevan's attractions include the ancient manuscripts in the Matenadaran museum, the National Gallery, the weekend markets, the views of Mount Ararat in

neighbouring Turkey, and what many (including, reputedly, Winston Churchill) believe to be the world's best brandy. Sunvil Travel (0181-568 4499), the only UK tour operator to Armenia, offers a week-long B&B stay in Yerevan for £696-£736 including flights, with pre-bookable excursions into the countryside.

Off to Orissa

WITH its large, empty stretches of coastline, Orissa has been tipped as India's next Goa or Kerala - but the littleknown eastern state has baneswar with about 500 much more to offer than temples, plus visits to remote

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Fish sellers on the Bosphorus in Istanbul, where you can stay in an old Ottoman house converted into a hotel sandy beaches. Adventure specialist Explore Worldwide (01252 344161) is introducing Wildlife and Tribes of Orissa tribal hill villages. These tours cost between £1,175 and £1,330 for flights, internal travel and accommodation. mainly in B&Bs. Tours in March 1998 and between November 1998 and

Starting in Calcutta, the 17day tour includes Similipal National Park, a sanctuary for the rare Bengal tiger, and Ekakula Beach, where thousands of giant Pacific Ridley sea turtles lay their eggs. Also on the itinerary: the vast Sun Temple of Konarak, the Jag-annath Temple at Puri, one of India's holiest sites, and Bhubaneswar with about 500

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monsoon season).

one adult. Although the prices still

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UP TO 13,000 cheaper holidays for singleparent families are on offer from Thomson Holidays (0990 502552) next summer. Traditionally, holiday firms offer free places or discounts only when children are accompanied

by two adults. Thomson has selected 16 apartments in 14 resorts in popular family destinations such as Majorca, the Algarve and Corfu, where reductions will still apply for up to two children even if there is only

include the "under occupancy" supplement (travel-speak for extra charges that usually cancel out any children's reductions). Thomson claims that savings are greater than on any other comparable holiday. A week in May in Majorca, for example, would cost £229 for a parent with two children, instead of the normal brochure price of £495. In August the single-parent

offer price would be £693

wines, wines, ext food. Open all winese Call/fex 01634 832230

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The non-profit-making organisation One Parent Family Holidays (01465 821288 on Mondays, 017/6 889500 Tuesdays-Saturdays), which was formed in 1975, claims to offer 50 per cent discounts for children to most destinations within Europe, and 40 per cent in the United States. The offers for next year include group camping trips in the Loire valley and

holidays in the Balearic Islands, Holland, Florida and Australia. A parent, and child under 10, pay £249 for the French camping trip in June, rising to £299 in peak



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TRAVEL

CONTINUES

ON PAGE 34

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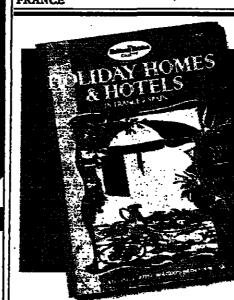
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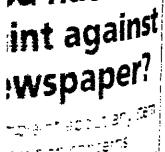
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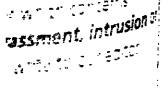


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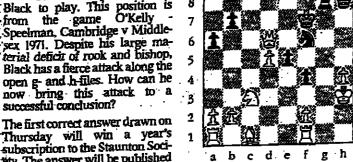


decisive than the line I proposed? Annal Court of the Black to play. This position is from the game O'Kelly Speelman, Cambridge v Middle-sex 1971. Despite his large ma-terial deficit of rook and hishop.

> now bring this attack to a successful conclusion? The first correct answer drawn on

Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

perinon: I Rfl.



Solution to last week's com- Last week's winner was A. Joel, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

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No 3437: The Message by MynoT

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I CONTINUE with some of the

more ingenious suggestions sub-mitted by Times readers. Today we

ification and one horrendous trap..... The first position was originally

published as a Winning Move on

White to play. This position is

White has an active position but

from the game Skotorenko-gadimirov, USSR 1961

Black appears to have covered the

important weak spots, as his rook

controls h8 and his bishop controls f7. However, White found a neat

geometric combination which won

1 Rxf7+! Bxf7 2 Ne6+ Ke8 (2... Kg8

3 Qg7 mate) 3 Nc7+ and the black

Dr Harrison of East Sussex indicates an alternative method for White: 1 Rb2! Now if Black cap-

tures the knight with 1... Qxc5 2

Rb8+ forces 2 . . . Bd8 3 Rxd8+ Ke7 4

Qi6 checkmate. The best that Black can do is 1... Qxb2 2 Nd7+ Ke8 3 Qxb2 Kxd7 4 Qb7+ but White will win easily. Well spotted.

The next situation is from the

Winning Move of October 3. Here,

Black is obviously trussed up like a

turkey but the question is what is

the most efficient way to finish

things off? For example: I Qxf6+

gxf6 2 Bg6 would force Black to

jettison material in the long term,

White to play. The position is

from the game Prokopchuk-Sakalauskas, Poland 1997. Can you

spot White's clever winning combi-

nation, which was even more

By Raymond Keene

Chess Correspondent

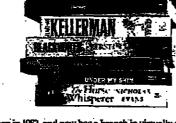
Black has a fierce attack along the

but there may be something

queen is lost.

quickly. What did he play?

lent notion, one days.



T W W I

1 Rxe8+! Kxe8 2 Bg6+ Kf8 3 Qd8+

D. Povey of Littlehampton and

David Barrett of Surrey point out

that Black had an alternative de-

tensive try with 1 Rxe8+ Kxe8 2

Bg6+ and now 2 ... Ri7. However.

they also point out the refutation: 3 Qb8+ Ke7 4 Qxb7+ and White will

exchange everything off on f7 and

The final extract was published as

the Winning Move on October 7.

White to play. This position is from the game Bauer-Santo

In this complicated position

White spotted a forceful combination which won the game.

then queen the b-pawn.

Roman, France 1997.

金

1 Rxe5! dxe5 2 Qxe5+ Kg8 3 Rf4! and

Black has no way to counter 4 Rg4+ except by 3 ... Rxf4 when 4 Bd5+ which wins outright.

Professor Eilon of London sug-

gests 1 Rxf7 would be a swifter way

for White to win. However, after

Rxf7, Black responds 1 ... Qxh5+,

capturing the white queen and ut-

terly turning the tables. Backwards

moves are often difficult to spot.

Solution:

WINNING MOVES

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CHESS

by Raymond Keene

To get this unsigned message across, it has been concealed in the letters (in order but not necessarily consecutive) omitted from answers before entry in the grid. Solvers are asked to enter the (missing) finalé to the message beneath the grid. All answers and entries are words found in Chambers 1993 except for one well-known place name. The numbers in brackets indicate the length of the grid entries.

ACROSS

2 Feather's soft and light, mostly (4)

5 Figs for suct pie (3) 9 Blockhead for the chop (4)

12 Cautions swoop around English bogs (5) 13 Spring dead one on church (4) 14 One who approves our loud rave is crazy (4)

15 Activists cared about society (4) 16 Taste of flan I devour (except some filling) (3) 18 Next best principle's almost symbol of death (5)

22 Room for half a dozen? (4) 23 Colour, unmistakeable but not discontinued (3) 25 Mix early English philtre for best velvet? (4)

26 Chair brought back for promenades (4) 29 Kick VIP? (5) 32 Northern feast may be abominable (4)

34 During the day, one in red passed through (3) 38 Plant house with a following (3) 39 Ninepence in bag for this lot of beer? (4) 4! Blemish on the Queen needs a repairer (5) 42 Reform a must for malodorous mammals (4)

44 Started to ask one (4) 46 Spike's in room A509, without cold water (3) 48 Draw back with fright from spectre (4) 50 Jolly party I have (3)

51 Graduate in hat produces pastry mould (6) 52 Unrecorded in Henry and Alfred's times (5) 53 Make fun of mollusc with new tail (3) 54 Dirges take in the difficulties (4) 57 Quince consumes best lubricant (4)

58 Crafty people find space in tubes (4) 59 Bluebottle records "hit and run" (5) 60 Golfer on Scottish shores makes cuts (4) 61 Paper boat by the sound of it (3) 62 With much deliberation we start to insulate broken light at the end of day (4)

DOWN

1 Trouble arising in room in harem (3) 2 Fairies almost die (5) 3 Shelter a general (3)

4 Free one's local credit (7) 6 Ambassador heard the last words . . . (5) 7 ... Lily heard a monster (6) 8 The sword gets home in skin (5)

9 Take chances about instruments (5) 10 You've a bit part, Iris! (4) 11 Notes the heads of my essential synopsis (3) 17 Snake-like covering (5)

19 Said to have a right to the ballot-box (3) 20 Dandies losing money in turkeys (4) 24 Return of a delay in the web (4)

27 Teacher keeps in everyone (separately) (4) 28 A zed-shaped tool? (4) 30 Waterweed not a force in Zeno's city (4) 31 Tidy Newcastle has a sort of square (4)

32 Deer found in US and Melksham (3) 33 Most operations include part of organ (4) 35 African puts embargo on Trade Union (5) 36 Vases manitos are breaking (7)

37 River leads to Ukrainian & Russian agricultural land? No & yes! (4) 40 Stopping tax to monarch (6) 42 A wry face, whichever way up (3) 43 Old seat to make acceptable to European (5)

44 They summon beauties to be heard (5) 45 Confused on board? (two words, 5) 47 Plainly without cash to a marked extent (5) 49 One in a hundred thousand is not an expert (4)

52 Stop in middle of lots of fish (3) 55 Hooter manufactured in Cowley? (3)

56 Yes, mutation produces local strain (3)

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Solution and notes for 3434: The Albingate Murder by Cheiron

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Solvers were also required to shade the defining land masses (as per Chambers) FLORIDA, THE BAHAMAS and CUBA

The winner is John Robert-Jones of, Liverpool, Merseyside. The runners up are D. Greenwood, of Ealing, London; Harold Margolis, of Hackney, London; Mr and Mrs M. Wreathall, of Chelmsford. Essex: P.L. MacDougal, of Fulham, London: Hazel ESDEGDESISTET Workman, of Birmingham, West Midlands.

BRIDGE

by Robert Sheehan

BRIDGE computer programs come in three categories: those that bid and play randomly-dealt hands, those that use prepared hands for teaching purposes, and those that enable you to play bridge against other players on the Internet. All require an IBMcompatible personal computer, the more powerful the better. The minimum requirements are usually 4Mb RAM and Windows 3.1. Before buying, check with the vendor that you have the right kit.

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+A2 eK6 E ♥KQ10863 **▼**AJ42

+ 109 +43 S #AKO95 **± 1083** West 1C 4C* 5H *cue-bid East 1H 4S* Pass

Q-plus assures us that Four Clubs is a cue-bid in the above auction, something I would have thought open to question. Still, it did well to detect the diamond weakness. E49.50, Mr Bridge 01483 489961. Bridge Baron 8 (and Bridge

Baron): From the US, the winner of the Computer Bridge Tournament. It is suited to players of all skill levels. It will provide hints on bidding or play — like many human players it is often wrong but never in doubt. A smaller version.

Bridge Baron, is good value. Bridge Baron 8: £49.95, Bridge Plus 0118-935 1052. (DOS and Mac versions also available.) Bridge Baron: £20, computer stores (needs a CD-Rom drive).

Micro Bridge 8: A lively product

from Japan. Among its many features is one which allows you to play match-pointed pairs using the results of tournaments already played in Japan. The display of the cards on the screen is not as good as the other two programs. The hand below illustrates a couple of interesting technical points missed.

W E 4985 ▼AJ ◆AQJ4 • K2 s **∳**A1052

Contract 3NT by West Lead; three of hearts With the computer playing all four

hands, the lead went to the king and West ducked. Although unlikely to cost, this is a mistake because South may switch to a spade. West would have to play the ace on this as otherwise the defence could switch back to hearts threatening to set up five winners. Now, when West plays clubs (ace and low to the queen is best), he will go down if one of the defenders started with K Q I(1 x of spades. When I redealt the defenders' spades to produce the critical layout, the program did not find the spade switch: £54, Bridge Plus (needs a CD-Rom drive).

Next week: the teaching and Internet

WORD ANSWERS

Answers from page 36 ANLAGE

\$ 19 E 15

(b) The rudimentary basis of an organ or organism.

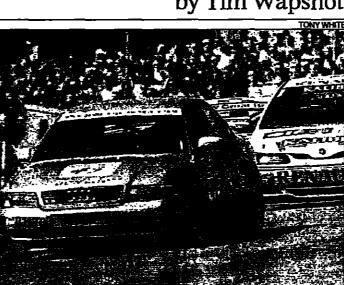
FRIKKADEL (a) A South African ball of meat, fried or baked; a rissole.

(a) Stylish, smart. Cf. the Scottish doss neat, spruce, and dossie a small, neat, well-dressed person. GAZOB

(c) Oz slang for a fool or blunderer.

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott



winter title yesterday, TOCA Touring Car Championship. This is the official game of the 1997 AutoTrader RAC Touring Car Championship and the PC and PlayStation title is authentic down to the cars, teams, drivers and tracks from the real event. The choice of cars covers a souped-up Peugeot 406 to a Nissan Primera, all put through their paces on accurate virtual models of seven challenging courses, includ-

NEW SOFTWARE

ing Donington Park, Snetterton and Brands Hatch. There are plenty of dynamic camera views, such as a "head cam" vista from inside the driver's helmet which judders with the car's G-forces for added realism.

CYBERSPACE Thirty-Eight offers

readers the chance to turn virtual reality into an adrenalin-firing

actuality. Top, prizes in our latest competition are two pairs of silver vouchers for on-track experience at

the Brands Hatch race circuit.

As good as the game is, nothing beats the real thing. So two readers, and a guest each, will scoop the chance to feel such G-forces for real. The silver package promises a day to remember with the Nigel Mansell Racing School at Brands

were later wiped out.

by Ensemble Studios under the

guidance of Bruce Shelley, who co-

designed Sid Meier's hits Civilisation and Railroad Tycoon.

Starting as one of 12 fledgling

tribes (Babylonians, Egyptians,

Greeks, Persians and so on), you

pick your own path through 10,000

years of evolution to world domina-

tion. You must balance manpower

and resources with technology,

The game looks sensational and

runs like clockwork. It easily

warmongering and diplomacy.

Star Wars grouples.

Script an ad and win a day's hands-on racing at Brand's Hatch Hatch. The trip starts with a Eight is open to anyone with a

classroom briefing, then moves to current driving licence. To enter the racetrack where you drive a

BMW 318 and a racing car.
The visit will last around two and a half hours; at the end you will be presented with a commemorative certificate proving you have tested your mettle in metal at the worldfamous track. Cyberspace Thirtyyou must come up with an outline or short script for an imaginary television advertising campaign for the unimaginable: a Skoda sports car. Your treatment should cover no more than one side of A4 paper.

Send your entries, with your name, age and telephone number.

to Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, Computer Games and Pastimes, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. You may also e-mail entries,

marked Cyberspace Thirty-Eight, to cyber@dircon.co.uk. by Decem-

Normal Times competition rules apply and the judges will not enter into additional correspondence. The two winners, plus six runnersup, will also win PC copies of Codemaster's TOCA Touring Car Championship.

BIRMINGHAM Computer Manuals has just released its latest imports of Prima game cheat books. The PlayStation Pocket Power Guide (vol 2), offers insider information on over 60 games, from Assault Rigs to War Gods. Tips for Need for Speed II, for example, allow you to get some unusual mileage out of the title which you may not have known about. Type "OUTHME" and your powerful sports car turns into an outside loo on wheels, while "TREXME" turns your racer into a dinosaur with an unparalleled view of the course thanks to its long

neck. The sister title is Seea Saturn

Pocket Power Guide (vol 2), which

does the same thing for 30 games. In Manx TT, swap bikes for Isle of Man sheep as follows: at the "select transmission" screen of Saturn mode, press Up, Up, Down, Down. Left, Right, Z, Y. Both guides cost £6.99.

£11.99, claims to have cheat codes for over 100 games but tends to be more of a briefing manual. So does Nintendo 64 Unauthorised Game Secrets, £9.99, but this is woefully inadequate. Try using it to plot some games and you are trustrated by vagaries. You can contact Computer Manuals on 0121-706 6000 or via their website (http://www. сотртап.со.цк).

TWO BRAINS **ANSWERS**

From page 36

Question 1: 216. The previous numbers are multiplied together and the result divided

Question 2: a) Surgeon b) Astronomer

SOLUTION JUMBO CROSSWORD 135

"O| N| T| H| E S| U| N| N| Y| S| I| D| E| O| F| T| H| E| S| T| R| E| E T "APLANATIC BRABANTIO PEPISCOPALIANISM ⁴t I E U P TETSEQUENTIA STRIBPTEASE SGINGLYMI S I T U A T I O N C M E D Y EPIMPETOIMENTA MATINEE LJUBLJANA THANKHEAVENFORLITTLEGIRLS

The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, is Don Cox, of Wirral. Cheshire

I HAVE a problem with Microsoft's Age of Empires. This is a glossy god game in which you dispatch hunters to kill elephants and lions for food at the start of the game. It seems so barbaric that I tried to build my civilisation by feeding them a diet of fish alone. which could be why the weaklings Age of Empires is Microsoft's slant on Sid Meier's classic, Civilisation. Charges of blatant Engrossing: Age of Empires unoriginality can be forgiven, however, since this title was developed

Instead of the dog, boot and warship you opt for eight charac-ters from the film — Darth Vader. Luke Skywalker and Princess Leia among them. The only familiar squares from the board are Go. prison, free parking and go to prison. Everything else takes an uniathomable Star Wars slant. Chance and Community Chest become Imperial and Rebel cards. Railway stations become space vessels. Out go the Old Kent Road

nopoly, released last year.

and Whitechapel for Swamp Dagobah and Yoda's Hut and so

Hasbro's CD-Rom of original Mooriginal voice for C-3PO in the film trilogy, Anthony Daniels, the title has little to excite Monopoly fans • Verdict: 6 out of 10. Monopoly

becomes all-consuming yet it can be difficult to shake off feelings of on with the colour-coded sets already having been there and done that. Still, it is extremely around the board. The main screen looks ugly and the board squares are difficult to identify individually. In the origipolished as you expect from one of the titles warranting most attention nal you know the significance of being ordered to Advance to Maywhen Microsoft first aired it at

Atlanta's trade show this summer. fair but Advance to Imperial Palace • Verdict: 9 out of 10. Classy and Coruscant carries only confusion. engrossing god gaming. £39.99. C-3PO's constant narration of HASBRO Interactive's Monopoly events, which is testy if you are Star Wars is a marriage made in playing as R2-D2 and timid if you are Darth Vader, barely adds to the the heavens but executed in a muddled hell. Despite input by the experience. This is not a patch on

and even less for all but die-hard Star Wars - Do Not Pass Go.

هكذا من رلاميل

MODERN MANNERS

by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend. I Pennington Street, London El 9XN

My brother has just got divorced from his wife who we were very fond of and would still like to see. What is the correct etiquette in this situation? - Celia Glynn, Sherborne, Dorset.

First tell your brother (prefer-A First tell your product was ably in writing) that you would like to continue seeing his former wife. This is a question of courtesy rather than consent, as a divorced spouse has no say in the matter. Next write to her, saying that despite the divorce you wish to remain friends. I suspect she will be delighted with this gesture.

What is the correct to a married couple What is the correct form of where the wife, but not the husband, is an ordained minister? We have been variously addressed as "Revd & Mr G", "Mr & Revd Mrs G". Revd Mrs E & Mr G" and a variety of other permutations. — George Hubbard, Willingham. Cambridge.

A Quite simply: Mr George and The Revd Elizabeth Hubbard.

Early one morning this summer. I woke to the sound of rainfall. I suddenly remembered that the down pipe from the roof guttering was dis-connected from the rainwater butt, and I rushed outside. I had to stand on tiptoe with arms outstretched to

connect the down pipe, and was thus spreadeagled facing the side of the house when I heard milk bottles clinking by the door: the milkman on his delivery round in the half-light of dawn. On hot anights, as this had been, I don't wear any night clothes, and had failed to get dressed in my rush to collect the rainwater. In my nakedness, I failed to greet the milkman with my customary, cheerful "Good morning". Instead. I froze, hoping he wouldn't notice me. I wonder if I have offended him — or if I would have by acting in a more extrovert and up-front manner. - Andrew Brownridge, Askham, Notts.

A Just as the well-trained butler always feigns complete indifference should he catch his master. mistress or others in flagrante delicto, on the loo, or stark naked, the form of somebody in your situation is to behave as if fully clothed. You should have merely turned your head to the milkman (perhaps not the rest of your body to spare him a full-frontal assault so early in the morning) and said a bright "Good morning". I suspect he would have regarded such a reaction as less unusual than the response you describe.

I was always taught that when eating descent when eating dessert, one should either use a spoon and

fork, or a fork alone. I have noticed of late many people using just a spoon. Is this acceptable these days? - Bruce Morgan, Duifield, Derbyshire.

At a recent wedding, just At a recent wearened before the church service a visit to a pub was proposed by the groom's father. The only person I knew among the guests was the groom's father himself. Was it selfish of me not to offer the first round of drinks? — E.E. Manning. London, W8.

A The wedding day belongs to the bride, groom and their parents. Thus it was the groom's father's prerogative to stand the first round of drinks. After all, I suspect his expenses for the day were considerably less than those of his opposite number.

Having been divorced for 17 years, my former husband died earlier this year. Some friends say I should tick widow. some say divorced and some single on forms. I've always been addressed as Mrs. Esther McKell, Ayr, Scotland. The act of divorce

A The act of officered dissolves a marriage and therefore any subsequent claims widowhood are invalid. Thus, both for practical reasons such as pension entitle-

ments and for social correctness, you should always tick "divorced" when filling in forms.

As a qualified hairdresser and beautician, I often give my friends luxurious treatments at home, the price being a good bottle of wine. This mostly works well except for one or two friends who conveniently "forget" the payment and several weeks can go by before they remember. I find this extremely rude. After all, they could not forget to pay if they went to a clinic or salon. How could I tactfully suggest that this is not acceptable and spoils what is usually a fun night? — Miss S. Myers, Worcester.

Next time one of the miscre-A ants comes around, say innocently: "Could I could ask your opinion about a little dilemma? As you know, the price to friends for one of my treatments is a good bottle of wine. Someone has asked me to do some extensive electrolysis, which I estimate will take 12 sessions. Do you think I could ask would mean that she could settle up in advance and not worry about forgetting to pay for individual treatments " Your client should be round to the off-licence before you can say cabernet sauvignon. John Morgan is associate editor of



WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

ANLAGE a. An overflow canal b. A rudiment c. To overland a boat

FRIKKADEL a. A rissole

b. A gypsy fiddle c. The African vulture-owl DOSSY

a. Smart b. Soft c. A class of yacht

GAZOB a. A spyhole

b. A gypsy pancake c. A fool

TWO BRAINS

This column welcomes feedback from readers. Abigail Rosenthal (Herts) and Norman Shepherd (Bristol) have written in suggesting that a truly creative mind might find alternative answers to the questions I have set. If you do have a valid alternative any week, please write to me, Raymond Keene, Two Brains, c/o The Times, Weekend, i Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The best contributions will be published in this column.

Question 1: What is the next number in this sequence?

6

Question 2: The two statements below can be read as two professions. What are they? a) GO NURSE

b) MOON STARTER Answers on page 35 | Answers on page 35

CROSSWORDS

By Mike Laws

The lure of empty Jumbo grids may not be quite universally acknowl-edged, but I have had an encouraging comment from Moscow, and am apparently an accessory (before the fact) to neglected housework in Ipswich!

Such thievery of time also afflicts those that create them, since a goodly selection of entries longer than 15 letters is a prerequisite, and fitting them in means each diagram has to be con-structed individually, whereas completing one of the 50 fixed grids for the daily crossword is usually the easy part. Clueing long words and phrases often presents difficulties, and a Jumbo's average solution-length ex-

ceeds that of a 15x15, so the whole puzzle can take more than four. times as long to complete. The occasional obscure vocabulary becomes inevitable, given these strictures. I promise such solutions will be minimised and clued as unequivocally as pos-

sible, although still cryptically. Christmas 1971 saw the first Times Jumbo, by Edmund Akenhead, then crossword editor. His format remains the standard, so after 125 bank holiday appearances it seemed appropriate to dub the first weekly version, on September 6, as No 126. Practical considerations militate against weekly noncryptic versions, but these will continue to appear on Saturdays

preceding bank holidays. Stylespotters will have had the chance to identify the work of seven regular Times contributors so far, sometimes in collaboration, and puzzles by other experienced hands are already in the pipeline. Aspiring Jumboists should make contact first before committing themselves to a full grid.

The blame is entirely mine for

last week's jumbo-sixed errors and I apologise unreservedly; allowances will be made. Clue 55 down should have read: Refused to grant it takes two hours to get in the joint (8). However, I would still like you to say Sent comments, or I went mad (5,2) to: Mike Laws, Weekend Jumbo editor, c/o The Times.

PICTURE LINE



READERS are invited to suggest what the Queen Mother, pictured right, might be saying.

This picture, recently printed in The Times, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, EI 9XN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, November 27.

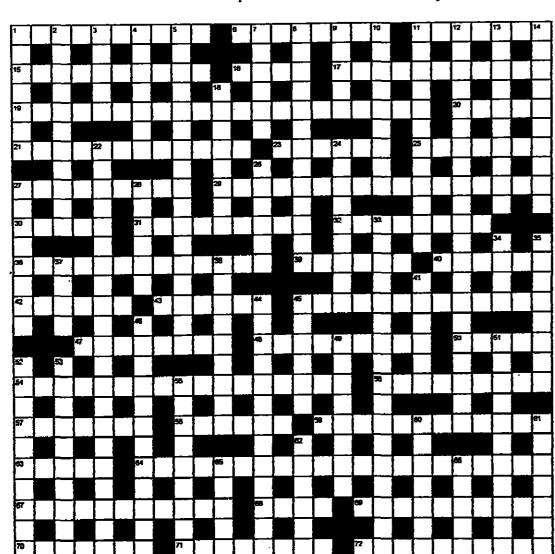
Last week's winning caption, left, was submitted by Mrs B. Graebe, of Eye, Suffolk.



JUMBO CROSSWORD 137



The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 137, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN to arrive by Monday, December 1. The name of the winner will be published in Weekend on Saturday, December 6.



NAME ... **ADDRESS**

Fancy type of clock's mine — just a bit of froth (6-4)

6 Is it today? No - it was yesterday 11 In the caves, I cleared a small

cavity (7) 15 Set permeating in motion (10)

16 Booted out? (4) 17 Where the reception is chilly, and ideas are shelved (4.7)

19 Hastily concealed cigarette may be quickly disposed of (4,1,4,2,4,6) 20 Having all players involved in show of disapproval, it's backed

21 Year's big lead recast, causing a quarrel? (12) 23 Slum area has heroin within

25 Grandma's showing great interest in cotton material (7)

27 Sculptor has a signed agreement rejected — say nothing (9)
29 Loves to fill in parts of this grid.

(7,3,7) Somewhat wrong-he decidous tree? (5)

31 Complain loudly about schooldays left — it'll be grinding

32 Minor star appearing in a footnote (8)

36 Some support offered, being given the push (13)
39 Off-piste finally, risks may involve

40 Lad busy with a piece of music (6) 42 Succeeded with two articles to

wrap (6)
43 Winnie, returning to US city, appears fair game (4-2) 45 One may control influx, as

famous merchant's left in a guandary (8.5) 47 Kept daily records, having acted

to secure an increase (8) 48 Tourist reported profit, following

a great deal (9)

50 Close with misprint — it's at bottom of column! (5)

54 Jane's booking perhaps means holding up the match (\$,3,9)

56 One in last, possibly under stress (9)

57 It may be involving a criminal (7) 58 Pan nearly holds it - it's small, Like 55 (6)

59 Inexperienced at first, feels skill growing (5.7)
63 Detailed cunning rodent (5)

64 Sciected students being aware of previous literary style (6,2,13)

67 Extension needed, as the Shadows were performing in the evening (11) 68 Old Swiss hotelier starts to

revamp inns, targeting Zurich (4) 69 Run off with single partner, doing nothing improper (10) 70 Start people in office cutting bad

language, at last (5.2)
71 One may have heard of the puzzle over the page (8) 72 Very vague as a result of atternoon nap, missing a boat coming in? (10)

DOWN

branches (7)

2 Well-equipped with warnings of road hazards surrounding a

worshipped pets may be (2,3,3,2,3,4)

Where sources of special prints are available (2,4)

caller was (8-4)
12 This automatic ignition

occasionally plays up (11.10)

18 Crack unit — part of a fleet (3-5) 22 Take serious risks, and discuss

24 Islander with singular obsession, into Browning (9)

Act with insolence, accepting the alternative is to give in meekly (4.3,5,5)

Indian costume (4) 35 Intense pressure - a way son got

in dire straits? (4.4) 37 Rock music's last fund-raising

41 Arrives in London, perhaps - it's a crowded place (6)

It's hard to get over it (7.6)

45 I've abandoned eating some animal produce (6)

46 Outspoken scientist one dismissed as a monster (12)

51 Associate with a creed often seen as corrupt (! 1) 52 Will they clear out naval types frequenting the Derby? (5.5)

A supplier of bedding material (7) 61 Dubious religious group split up by American pressure (7)

l Gained promotion, making contact initially with certain

apital (11)

3 Work on a libretto? (5) 4 Ignoring some characters involved, once spy defects (7)

5 Out of one's control, as

8 Ben's companions are so ancient

College head almost has the right page (5)
 It's advisable to have knot

securing present — that's not in doubt (4-5)

11 One's left to establish who the

13 Diagram sure to be messed over editor's first drink! (10)

14 Detective with intelligence on the Bill — who saw it? (10)

two elements in detail (2,7,4,3,5)

26 Curious, almost antique? (6)
27 Do some ironing, perhaps, to reduce the quantity (8)
28 Policeman found graduate in

possession of grass (6)

34 Queen's attendant dressed up in

activity (4)
38 In trouble deep in Texas – departing as is advisable! (9)

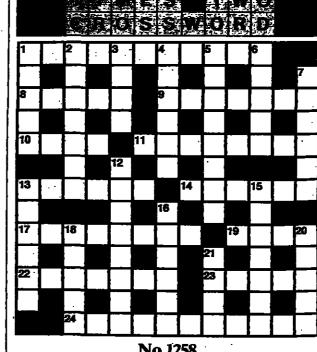
44 A type of wit heard over dessert?

49 Representative cross-section of the 30's (4,4)

53 Dispute the number left (10) 55 One's daughter may be in the process of delivery (5.4)

62 Cut down the weed, perhaps getting terribly chesty (6) 65 Answer, and say one's offered protection (5)

66 Second aspiration - to be smart



No 1258

DOWN

tote (4)

(3,3)

A sense; a small sample (5) 2 Behave insincerely (4-3)

3 A bean, makes meat substi-

5 An (alcoholic) drink (lit.) (8)

Informal expressions (5)

7 Greek/Turkish island (6)

12 A pear, a citrus, gives per-

13 Post-Christian 'religion'

15 Sports ground (7)

4 Thin decorative strip (6)

ACROSS

1 Neat keyboarded copies

8 Sordid (5) 9 Lazarus's home town (7)

10 And the rest (Lat., abbr.) 11 Rural labourer (8)

13 Tree. provides mace (6) 14 Fights with lances (6)

17 Cambridge mathematician oucc (8) 19 A fish; a singer (4)

22 Language-learner's book (7) 23 Sound (bell): be consistent (5)

24 March girls book (Alcott)

16 Sea bird, sounds like fuel (6) 18 Be of use (5) (6,5) 20 Surface lustre (5) 21 Barge; (US) yacht (4)

7 Giencoe 8 Incarcerate 12 Embattled 14 Deficit 16 Robbery 18 Agree 20 Tutor 23 Nil

SOLUTION TO NO 1257 ACROSS: 1 Facade 4 Bigwig 9 Chapman 10 Fugue 11 Salve 13 Aquatic 14 Don 15 Bacon 16 Rue 17 Flatter 19 Abbot 21 Carol 22 Tangent 24 Tweeds 25 Player

THE BOOKSHOP

DOWN: 1 Focus 2 Chaplin 3 Dam 5 Influenza 6 Wight

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS - SPECIAL OFFER: The Times Tumbo Crosswords Book 3 is available to Times readers for just 14 (RRP 14.49) while supplies too from The Times Bookshop.

Compilation volumes of The Times Two Crosswords (Book 6 — 12.99, The Times Crosswords (Volumes 10, 11, 12, 13 — 12.99 each) and Times Computer Crosswords on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. op, by call 0990 134 499 for credit card orders or for further decails. If paying (5) please make payable to News Books/Grosswords and send or The op, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TRII 27X. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject

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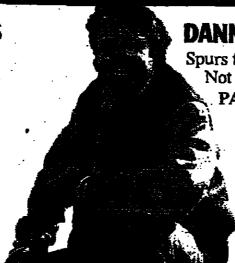
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UNDER THE SKIN OF SPORT **CAPTAIN'S** COURSE Simon Barnes meets the best horseman

in the world

PAGE 43

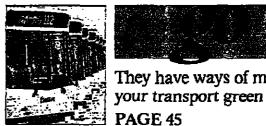


DANNY BAKER Spurs to glory? Not likely **PAGE 37**

DRIVING FORCE Colin McRae puts his foot down in the **RAC Rally**

WEEKEND MONEY

How much is your house making you this year? PAGE 51



They have ways of making

SATURDAY SPORT

NOVEMBER 22 1997

PAGE 41

UNITED FRONT NEEDED FOR CATT



Just for kicks: Mike Catt, the England fly half, gets in some practice at Old Trafford yesterday as the countdown continues towards the confrontation with the All Blacks. Photograph: Marc Aspland

OLD TRAFFORD has seen its share of sporting life this past month. Quite apart from the comings and goings of Manchester United, the Great Britain rugby league team passed through a formight ago and today the England rugby union team follows suit. Sadly it is virtually impossible to conceive that England will beat New Zealand on the ground where, against all predictions, the country's rugby league players beat

It is said that the All Blacks. overcome by the aura imposed by the so-called Theatre of Dreams, were less than impressive during their closed training there this week and received appropriate admonition from John Hart, their coach. If that is true, then England must hope that playing a match there will have the same effect, because a comparison of the qualities of the teams leaves no room for

doubt over the result. That has been Hart's problem this week, particularly after his midweek team scored 59 points against Emerging England on Tuesday. England, his players have been told, represent one of the most demanding opponents of an entire year in which the All Blacks have been unbeaten. Seven of the visitors' starting

Sec. 3.

Reality awaits in Theatre of Dreams

XV were at Twickenham four years ago when a well-prepared but limited England side beat them 15-9, and the desire to put the record straight is strong.

Stern reality sets England's present squad several removes from the experienced, skilful, confident unit that they face this afternoon. Even Clive Woodward, the England coach, could not refrain from applauding as he watched the All Blacks go about their business on Tuesday.

Stern reality, too, was John Mitchell's message yesterday. The England assistant coach knows that one game together, against Australia last week, is nothing like enough to even evoke genuine comparison with New Zealand.

"We have to focus on learning, improving, establishing credibility," Mitchell, a New Zealander himself, said, "I believe in the players England have but it will be a huge exercise for them. There are



Scotland v Australia 3pm (88C1, live). France v South Africa 2.45pm. wide cracks in our system and it's about time we recognised

The cracks include the inability of the Allied Dunbar Premiership to provide the degree of intense competition to a sufficient number of English-qualified players that the Super 12 tournament offers southern hemisphere players. In common with an increasing number of other administra-

tors, he seeks a global compe-

tition in which English region-

al teams can compete. The Premiership doesn't look after English rugby at all," Mitchell, who is director of rugby at Sale, said. "There has to be a resolution between the owner-clubs and the Rug-

by Football Union." That is for the future. The present offers an occasion that has generated excitement and enthusiasm throughout the North West. A capacity crowd

scrummaging performance much improved on the ragged display against Australia, which inhibited nearly everything else England hoped to do. Set-piece play was one area in which England, down the years, have been consistently competitive, but Mitch-ell now finds himself having to enforce a different, more attacking, mentality.

Then there is Jonah Lomu. Two years ago, when the giant New Zealand wing was unleashed upon the World Cup. many observers suggested that he was the difference between the All Blacks and the rest. It was a naive view then and remains so, since New Zealand have proved over and over again how effective a

force they are without him. That said, Lomu creates problems. "The management have had faith in me and I have to return that, there's no way I can let them or my teammates down," he said after

learning that a tour designed to reintroduce him gently to top-flight sport after his protracted illness will now restore him to full-blown international rugby. England, rightly, have not designed their de-fence to cope with one individ-ual, but his ability to suck in defenders will be the ultimate test of their pattern of play.

If England are to compete this afternoon, it will be through an enormous combi-nation of self-will and pride in individual performance. From the speed and guile of Christian Cullen at full back to the rock at loose-head prop that Craig Dowd has become, New Zealand hold the trumps. They are probably the best side that has ever worn the All-Black jersey, Mitchell said, and it is not being too harsh to suggest that, of England's side, only Martin Johnson and, perhaps, Lawrence Dallaglio, might press for a place among them.

But the opportunity to measure oneself against the best comes all too rarely and, after today, England will know far more of the world that they seek to inhabit. Not only that - within the next fortnight, against South Africa and then New Zealand again, they will have the chance to put that knowledge to some use.

Last hurrah for Parc, page 34 Perry blossoms, page 35 Lawrence Dallaglio, page 35

Long distance, st 523-33% 4.4 66% STANDARD RATE one minute call including VAT.

Zola: impressive

Chelsea celebrate Zola's big day at Blackburn

BY OLIVER HOLT, POOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THERE was no cake and there were no candles, but, just a few days after a daughter was born to Rund Gullit, they were celebrating a different kind of bixthday down at Chelsea's training ground yesterday as they prepared for oday's match at Blackburn Rovers.

In English league terms, Gian-franco Zola, the diminutive Italian who, with Dennis Bergkamp and Eric Cantona, has been the most successful of the foreign invaders, will be a year old when Chelsea stride out at Ewood

Park to try to press their claims for the championship. Signed from Parma, he made his debut against the Lancashire club 12 months ago.
Zola appeared almost sheepish

when he spoke at a press conference yesterday about his first year in English football. "It was impossible for me to imagine that I would have such a fantastic 12 months when I first arrived," he said. "You have to be

positive when you start at a new club, but you cannot expect what I have had. It has been a hard year, but the payment for it has been special. We are in a good position in the league and we have to keep going. The signs

are positive, but we cannot get lazy." Praised by Gullit, who applauded the way Zola has adapted to a new culture and said that there was nothing more he could add to his

formidale game. Zola reciprocated by saying he was happy to play his part in the coach's squad system. Maybe four or five years ago, it would have been hard for me to accept it," Zola said, "but when I play football I am like a child and somebody said to me recently that I am not a child any more. Now it is not a problem for me to miss the odd game."

El Tel on top Down Under, page 36 Match-by-match guide, page 38 over 250 countries by adding First Telecom's service to h Think first, before you make another long distance call

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CRICKET

Waugh's six makes a mark

MARK WAUGH, the Australia batsman, hit one of the WACA ground. Perth, yesterday as he and Steve, his twin brother, dominated the New Zealand attack on the second day of the second Test.

Australia were in a commanding position at the end of a rain-affected day, having made 235 for four in their first innings in reply to New Zcaland's 217.

The Waugh twins rescued their side with a fourth-wicket partnership of 153, scored at a run a minute, after the first three wickets had fallen for 71. It is the third time that the brothers have figured in a century partnership in a Test. Mark Waugh was dismissed for 86 shortly before the close. while Steve was unbeaten on 79. with Ian Healy on three.

Mark, who needed a good score to preserve his place in the side, ensured a place in the folklore of the ground when he straight drove a ball from Daniel Vettori, the leftarm spinner, on to the top of a five-storey stand, 130 yards away. Observers compared the shot with one by Kim Hughes for Australia against England in the Centenary Test at Lord's in 1980.

☐ The Sri Lanka captain. Arjuna Ranatunga, was involved in an angry exchange with Srinivas Venkataraghavan, the Indian umpire, in Mohali yesterday as India laboured to take charge of the first Test. India took their overnight score of 91 for no loss to 293 for four, 76 behind Sri Lanka's first innings score

Venkataraghavan turned down two appeals for bat-pad catches against Navjot Sidhu, during an over from Muttiah Muralitharan, the spinner, Ranatunga remonstrated with the umpire and also spoke to Steve Bucknor, the West Indian umpire. Venkataraghavan, who had turned down several other appeals, called Ranatunga back before the next over and another heated exchange followed. Sidhu, who had made 110 at the time, was eventually dismissed for 130 after an innings lasting eight hours.

Scoreboards, page 40

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TENNIS: FRENCHWOMAN GAINS REVENGE BY ADVANCING TO SEMI-FINALS

Hingis defences finally pierced

FOUR months can make a world of difference in tennis. In July Martina Hingis was on top of the world, winning tournaments and grand-slam events at will. Opponents outside the top three were cannon-fodder and Mary Pierce was in that unfortunate group, taking only two games from the champion in San Diego. On Thursday night, however, she gained revenge, overpowering Hingis in the quarter-finals of the Chase Championships 6-3, 2-6, 7-5.

It was a remarkable performance from Pierce, who at times appeared so nervous that even breathing was beyond her. Hingis may be streets ahead of everyone else in the rankings and none can deny that she is the player of the year - an award she will collect here tomorrow - but she is still young. At 17 she lacks the physical power of some of her rivals and, at the

end of a heavy tournament schedule. the legs are weary and the mind is

Pierce, on the other hand, is desperate to show that she can fulfil the potential she showed in winning the Australian Open two years ago. Injury, illness and a lack of nous in tight matches have held her back but. given her chance at Madison Square Garden, she stuck to her guns to

Pierce's biggest problem has always been her ability to throw away a winning lead in a flurry of emotional and dramatic gestures. Even when she had Hingis on her knees in the first set, rattling to a 5-0 lead, she began to wobble. The forehand that had pulverised Hingis started to misfire. Her own service, which had been working surprisingly consistently, fal-tered. It took her 21 minutes to get to her first set point and another 14 minutes to convert her fourth.

Normally Hingis can weather such

storms, but on this occasion she admitted that she was stymied. "In the first set I didn't have a due what to do. it was all too fast," she said. But, knowing the Pierce of old and having beaten her twice this year, Hingis waited for the cracks to show.

They came in the second set. Hingis broke for a 2-0 lead and Pierce responded with the full range of amateur dramatics, flouncing around the court, glaring at errant line judges and harrumphing in indignation as

the points went against her. But, with the enthusiastic New York crowd behind her. Pierce launched another assault in the third set. She broke Hingis for a 2-1 lead, lost her own service immediately and then went 4-2 down before charging up the forehand again. As Hingis grew tired, she gave Pierce the ammunition she needed to thunder the winners down the line and leave Hingis flat-footed.

Battling back to 5-5, she then broke Hingis for a 6-5 lead. Hingis was not impressed and slung her racket from the baseline to the umpire's chair in disgust and was lucky not to be given a warning for such a display of petulance. Pierce was not so fortunate. Trying to compose herself and serve out for the match, she was pulled up for time-wasting. But when, finally, she was able to settle the nerves long enough to get into the railies, she held firm just long enough to convert her third match point with a backhand volley after 2hr 6min.

"I think Martina was a step slower tonight," Pierce said. "But it just shows that I can beat anybody on any day when Mary Pierce is playing her game. The time will come when I will be able to play this way consistently." Her next chance to prove it will come today, when she faces Nathalie

Tauziat in an all-French semi-final. Tauziat defeated Iva Majoli, the No 6 seed, 7-6, 7-6 and managed to reduce the 20-year-old French Open champion to tears as a result. "She is 30, I am 20," Majoli said. "Today she played like she was 20 and I was 60."



Pierce is jubilant after overcoming her nerves to defeat Hingis

HOCKEY

Cannock face a sterner test

CANNOCK'S position as leaders of the men's National League premier division will be under threat tomorrow when they entertain Canterbury, who have enhanced their reputation as a highscoring side.

When the teams met in a

ENGLAND

28/1

200/1

300/1

100/1

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INTERNATIONAL RUGBY UNIO

HANDICAP BETTING

England with a 24 point start

11/10 England 16/1 Draw New Zealand 4/6

Old Trafford, Kick-off 2.00pm, Live on SKY.

.6-10 pts

11-15 pts

.16-20 pts

.21-25 pts

.26-30 pts.

25/1 Drawn Match

Scotland with a 12 point start

5/6 Scotland 16/1 Draw Australia 5/6

Murrayfield, Kick-off 3.00pm, Live on BBC TV.

.1-5 pts

..6-10 pts

.11-15 ots

16-20 pts

21-25 pts.

.26-30 pts

18/1 Drawn Match

LATEST RUGBY ODDS • Teletext on CH4 P601/602/603

By Sydney Friskin pre-season practice match.

Canterbury were much below strength and lost 5-0; but Martin Gilbody, the Cannock manager, said yesterday: "I'm not expecting anything quite as easy as that.

N. ZEALAND

AUSTRALIA

.11/1

.9/2

.9/2

.4/1

.9/2

13/2

10/1

The key players in the Canterbury line-up are Hum-phries and Danny Laslett in attack, Hacker at centre half and Evennett, a dependable figure in defence.

and Parnham.

Southgate, in second place one point behind Cannock, have an important date at Reading, the titleholders, full of confidence after a shaky start to the season and well in the running in third position. Both clubs will be at full strength.

Cannock again will be with-

out Hughes-Rowlands, their resourceful left half, who is

still ill, but their defence will

be stabilised by the return from injury of Kalbir Takher

Nick Thompson and Scott Smith have recovered from injury for Old Loughtonians home match against Teddington. Haydon, a talented Eng-land Under-21 World Cup team defender, is unavailable

Relegation-threatened Beeston face a hard task when they visit fourth-placed East Grinstead, and Doncaster, although encouraged by their 4-2 victory over Hounslow, could have a fight on their hands against Guildford, who will be hoping to lift themselves off the bottom of the

Hounslow, who are at home to Barford Tigers, will be without Archer, who earned an automatic suspension after being sent off last week, and they will also miss Zac Jones. defender, because of

Havant and Surbiton, the two clubs setting the pace in the first division, are expected to maintain their dominance. Hayant are away at Bromley and Surbiton visit Gloucester City.

SAILING

Cayard hits trouble as Smith surges on

FROM EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

IN WHAT could be a turning point in his Whitbread Round the World yacht race campaign, Lawrie Smith, of Great Britain. on Silk Cut, yesterday continued his headlong charge through the Southern Ocean, overtaking EF Laneuage to move into fourth

place for the leg.
If maintained, this greatly improves Smith's overall standing for the race, moving him up from sixth to third, while Paul Cayard, skipper of EF Language, is dropped from first overall to second, 10 points behind Knut Frostad's Innovation Kvaerner, which is lying in second place for this

leg.
Smith's reputation for pushing to the limit, and for flying spinnakers in conditions in which most people would not even think about going sailing, has again been fully justified, with Silk Cut continuing to set the fastest pace in the fleet as the cold and exhausted crews plough on towards Fremantle, Western Australia. In the 60 hours to midnight on Thursday, the purple boat with the shark motif on her hull covered no fewer than 1,040.3 miles at an

average speed of 17.33 knots. Smith easily overhauled Cayard and by yesterday he had established a margin of 27.8 miles over the American. Next on Smith's target list is his old sailing companion and fellow Briton, Paul Standbridge, at the helm of Toshiba, who is a further 140 miles up the track, but who is

also making good speed. The striking thing about Smith and his young crew's performance over the past

four days has been their ability to push hard without apparently breaking anything. This, as much as sheer boatspeed, has been the key to catching Cayard, whose fears in Cape Town that he would be in for a baptism of fire on his first race through the Southern Ocean have proved

all too real. Cayard reported what he called "another night of terror" on a boat that has already been hampered by torn spinnakers and two broken poles. "What happens out here systematically is that one small mistake leads to something bigger, which in turn leads to a disaster," Cayard

Yesterday, it was a nasty broach at a time when bowman, Curtis Blewitt, was up the mast and in danger of being thrown off into the water. The forces on the rig broke a repaired pole and snapped the vang or kicker. "We were resetting the spinnaker after repairing it from an earlier small mistake," Cayard said. "It opened before it got to the top and the helmsman lost control and spun into the wind.

"Curtis was up the rig while it was shaking violently - 1 thought he was going to die. We had to blow the halyard to get born away. We got Curtis down and he is okay, but he won't ever forget that broach." As Silk Cut marched on by.

Cayard was left to reflect: "I try to keep the big picture in mind; this is leg two of nine... what matters is where this all boils down to next May coming down the English Channel on the way to the finish line."

RUGBY UNION

Ireland's double change

By KARL JOHNSTON

IRELAND'S selectors are not panicking after last week's loss to the All Blacks. Yesterday, they announced only two changes to the team to play Canada at Lansdowne Road tomorrow week. Kevin Maggs and David Erskine, who both came on as substitutes last week, replace John

side flanker respectively. There could yet be two enforced alterations, with Keith Wood and Eric Miller troubled by ankle injuries. Allen Clarke, of Northampton, and Victor Costello, of St Mary's College, will assemble with the squad in Limerick on Tuesday to provide cover at hooker and No &

McWeeney and Eddie

Halvey at left wing and blind-

Pat Whelan, the team manager, said that a final decision on Wood will be taken on Wednesday night. If he is ruled out, Ross Nesdale will take over, Clarke will sit on the bench and Nick Popplewell will captain the side. Miller's doctors are confident, but he will be given the same time as Wood to prove himself. If he is not fit, Costello will come in.

Whelan said that McWeeney needs more time to adjust. "His talent hasn't disappeared, but he has had to make a huge step-up from nowhere. And Kevin Maggs is a very well-rounded player. who impressed us on the summer development tour in New Zealand," Whelan said.

"The call between Erskine and Halvey was close. When he came on last Saturday, he was more impressive than Eddie but Eddie is in the squad, anyway, and when possible, we want to operate a . 21-man system."

Brad Free, an Australian with Irish qualifications, is the scrum half in the Ireland A team to play Canada next Wednesday at Ravenhill.

S Africa bidding for repeat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

A YEAR ago, South Africa came to the Parc des Princes in Paris on the back of a good win in Bordeaux and sneaked home 13-12 to secure a 2-0 series win over France. Today they have a chance to repeat. that success in the 66th and final rugby international to be played at the Parc and become the first team to win successive series in France.

Given that they were beaten by the British Isles and in the tri-nations tournament by the All Blacks earlier this year. and that, in Nick Mallett, they have their third coach of 1997, it would be a remarkable turnaround. "Nick Mallett said to me that in France it series and a great one to win." Gary Teichmann, the Springbok captain, said. "It won't be. easy but we must restore some pride."

South Africa will want to emulate their form in the opening 60 minutes of the first Test in Lyons last week, which they won 36-32. They were quick and imaginative on the break, but they will not wantto revisit the last 20 minutes of that game, when France surged back from 36-15 down with three tries.

The loss of Joost van der Westhuizen, the scrum half, who tore a groin muscle in Lyons, is a blow to South Africa, though Rassie Erasmus, the flanker, will be fit to

play. The touring team are well aware, however, of the effect that the Parc des Princes will have on France. "It's a great stadium, very intimidating, and France will want to go out with a win." James Small, the wing, said.

For France, Olivier Merie retains his place in the second row ahead of Fabien Pelous, while David Venditti, the Brive centre, comes in for

Brive centre, comes in for Laurent Leflamand.
FRANCE: J-I. Sadourry: D'Venditi. S Glas, C Larrelson, P Sant. Andre (captain): T Lacrob, F Gathiet; C Californo, M dal Meso, F Tournale, O Brouzet, O Merle, P Benetion, L Cabernes, A Benezzi. Replacements: LLeflamend, D Aucagne, J Cazalbou, F Pelous, D Casadér, R Ibanez. SOUTH AFRICA: P Monagomery: J Small, A Snyman, D Mutr, P Rossour, H Honbell, W Swanepoet: O du Randt, J Datton, A Ganvey, M Andiews, K Otto, R Ensmus, A Ventar, G Terchmenn (ceptan): Replacements: J de Beer, D van 2yl, A Artiern, B Els, N Doctsive, D Theron.
Reference: P O'Brien (New Zeatand).

RUGBY UNION STATISTICS

THE TIMES WORLD RUGBY UNION TABLE

TOP INTERNATIONAL POINTS-SCORERS (pr

* includes tries scored before 11	982 which	were worth four points		
TOP TRY-SCORERS		l 1973 Auddand	England	16
Cape	Tries	1978 Twickenhern	N Zestand	'n
7 P Saint Andre (France) 66	11100	1979 Twickenham	N Zealand	i
2 Evans (Wales)	. 32	1983 Twickenham	England	i
3 J Wilson (NZ)	- 33	1985 Christohuich	N Zealand	18
4 A Stanger (Scotland) 45	23	Wellington	N Zeeland	42
5 T Horan (Australia) 54	21	1991 Twickenham	N Zealand	18
6 F Bunce (NZ)	20	1993 Twickenham	England	ī
7 C Cutlen (NZ)	18	1995 Cape Town	N Zeeland	45
J Small (SA)	18	1		-
9 Z Brooke (NZ)	17	Scotland	v Australia	!
J van der Westhutzen (SA) 38	17			A wo
E Ntarreck (France) 27	· 17	In Scotland 1	3 6 .	77
	••	In Australia.		4
England v New Zealar	-d ·			
	Z won	Total 19	5 7	- a
		,		•
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Neutral	7	Year Venue	Winners	Şc
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		1947 Murrayfield	Australia	- 1
Total 18 4	14	1958 Murrayfield	Scotland	12
MATCH-BY-MATCH		1966 Murrayfield	Scotland	1
Year Venue Winners	Score	1968 Murrayfield	Scotland	
1905 Crystel Palace Drawn	3-3	1970 Sydney	Australia	2
1925 Twickenham N Zeeland	17-11	1975 Murrayfield	Scotland	_10
	13-0	1981 Murrayfield 1982 Brisbana	Scattend	24
1936 Twickenham England 1954 Twickenham N Zealand	5-0		Scotland	12
1963 Auckland N Zestand	21-11	Sydney	Australia	_3
Christchurch N Zeeland	9-6	1984 Murrayfield 1988 Murrayfield	Australia Australia	37-
1964 Twickenham N Zealand	14-0	1992 Sydney	Australia	32. 27.
1967 Twickenham N Zepland	23-11	Brisbana	Austraka	37-
1973 Twickenham N Zestand	9-0	1996 Murrayfield	Australia.	29
		i	CONT. CO. CO.	-
Compiled by Stephen McCon	mack			

ENGLAND V'S NEW ZEALAND SAT 22ND NOUEMBER 4.15PM .AS IT SHOULD BE





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Scotland a

S Africa y bidding for repeat

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF A YEAR ago, South Aling Tame to the Pare des Princes a same to the rank of a god same on the back of a god with in Hordeaux and sneaked 4.mje 13-12 to secure a 26 denie win wat Lique Logic frey have a chance to repair The ruthe international tole

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ION STATISTICS

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David Hands on a back finding his feet with England



Perry, who will earn his second cap at full back against New Zealand today, is hoping that his exuberant style of play will be suited to Old Trafford

New post lets Perry gumshield that does it but put a 1960sstyle haircut on Matt Perry and he would look like enjoy life to the full Herman - he of the Hermits, for those whose memories of 30-yearold pop groups may be fraying at the edges. There is the same fresh, slightly aquiline face that always seemed ready to light up in a smile

so much be absorbed so soon? "It's still taking time for my selection to sink in even now." Perry said as England prepared in the Cheshire countryside this week.

Clearly this is so. In his youth that is to say, a couple of years or so ago - Perry would cheerfully have

completed 72 holes of golf in a day but now a mere 18 leaves him tired, given his exertions in his new profession of rugby player and the mental energy required by every member of a new team bedding down in the highest class of company. Perry, 6ft lin and 13st 7lb, regards himself as fortunate in the extreme at union accepted pro-

fessionalism, he was about to leave school, was making his way with highprofile Bath and was undecided

contract with the Bath academy of youth helped to decide him, though his association with the club goes back many years.

His father, Brendan, played there and became a club administrator; Matt Perry, the youngest of

TODAY'S TEAMS AT OLD TRAFFORD

ENGLAND NEW ZEALAND M.B Perry (Bath) W 3 fl Greenwood (Leice P R de Glanville (Bath) A Adebayo (Bath) 11 JT Lonn (Counties) J Leonard (Harlequins)
R Cockerill (Leicester)
D J Garierth (Leicester) 14 O Johnson (Leicester) G S Arction (Newcastle) Z V Brooks (Auckland) A J Diprose (Saracens) RIPLACEMENTS: 16 A S Hea (Leicester), 17 P J Grayson (Northempton), 18 N A Back (Leicester), 19 D J Grawcock REPLACEMENTS: 16 S J McLeod Rato), 17-J P Preston Lington), 18-A F Slowers (Auckland), 19 C C Riechelmann

half, at close range. That visit forced him to defer section as an eight-year-old before moving with his mother, Berna-dette, to live in Wales. The sporting

noose fastened when he went as a boarder to Millfield, where so many sports are accessible. He tried them all but rugby and cricket became the staple He "batted and

bowled a bit" in the same XI as Ben Hollioake and played fly half for the school, the position in which he won colts caps. At that time Richard Hill, the former England scrum half, was still scouring the land for talent to play in Bath's Perry received the invitation and needed little coaxing to join the senior train-

ing squad.
"It was only when l joined the club again that I changed

played at centre and full back, which is my preferred position," Perry said. His maturing process was aided in South Africa, where he spent four months playing with Durban Crusaders' under-21 team and was able to watch Henry Honiball, the leggy Springbok fly

taking up a place at University College, Cardiff, and then the rugby took over. "Everything has happened so quickly this season it has become very important to concentrate on training well. I've found that if you give 100 per cent to that, you'll get the opportunity to play in the first team," he said. "I've learnt things off different players. from Jerry [Guscott] and Mike [Catt]. i also learna lot with England Under-21 in Australia last summer," he said.

"I never thought I'd be playing against the Australian seniors and was nervous during the week's build-up because I didn't know what to expect, how much quicker, how much more physical it might be. If it had been New Zealand straight off, it might have been tougher but now I'm looking forward to them."

When England last played New Zealand, during the 1995 World Cup, Perry watched with his mates in the senior common room at Millfield. "It was unbelievable, they created so much space in a tournament where there just hadn't been any, defences were so tight." That being so, he knows what to

not been able to finish the job." Today would be a good time to

start, especially with South Africa

☐ Shade Munro, the lock forward

who won seven caps for Scotland,

yesterday announced his retire-

ment because of a knee injury.

to play in a fortnight.

Our self-belief and desire mean prospects are not all black

LAWRENCE

DALLAGLIO

f we are going to take on New Zealand and win, then continuity is the key. England have to apply pressure and we have to keep the ball, not just through one or two phases of play, but through three, four or live if we are to give ourselves a realistic chance of

That was the most disappointing aspect of the game with Australia at Twickenham last Saturday, and the Australians felt it as much as we did. We failed to put them under the sort of pressure that we have created in other matches and they failed to test us in the way that we needed to be

Australia did score two tries, but both from broken play and both from ball that was initially England's. There was no build-up of pressure, such as the British Lions achieved in South Africa and which the All Blacks themselves do so well

against Ireland last Saturday against Emerging Eng-land at Huddersfield on Tuesday.

Ireland came out with an aggressive attitude that was very effective for 40 or 50 minutes, but then New Zealand upped the tempo. You have to sustain a level of performance for 80 minutes, possibly even 85. It doesn't take a degree in rocket science to know that a level of intensity has to be achieved that will last the entire match and that is the question that English rugby as a whole has to ask itself: does our competitive structure develop the players who can do

In New Zealand it does and South Africa and Australia can tap into the same kind of system. All of us, players and administrators, in England are aware of that and are looking to modify our system accordingly. The Lions demonstrated in South Africa the odd passage of play in the opposing 22 takes their fancy. We need to create as many what can be

'Atmosphere

will be

very different

from a

normal rugby

crowd'

achieved. though the atmosphere surrounding our present series is far removed from that of. say, the first international against the Springboks in Cape Town dur-

ing the summer, when the only people who

ourselves. Everyone else presumed that we would be taken to the cleaners and that brought its response from the British and Irish players. Now we are at home and, though I accept that England are massive underdogs, make no mistake, the young squad is full of enthusiasm and the desire to

do well. The players carry no emotional baggage about playing the south-ern-hemisphere countries on a regular basis and coming off second best. We may lack maturity as a team, but we expected to go in against Australia and win - there was no consideration of defeat, let alone a draw, which is why the sense of anticlimax was so intense. But we have learnt from last week, individually and collectively, and the result was by

no means a damning one. The self-belief is the same before the game at Old Trafford today, even against the most effective team in the world. The game on Tuesday made it clear to everyone watching that New Zealand are the best in the business at punishing mistakes. Emerging England were punished for every turnover, even though they went 9-0 down, there was no sense of panic among the All Blacks, just a total belief that they could impose their rhythm on the game, and it will take an awesome display to counteract that effect today. But that's the challenge and it's not one that we

will step back from.
It will be the first time that I have played against them, which only emphasises how few fixtures we have had against them. The last time England sent a tour

party to New B team of 1992 and in 1993. when I was a England team at the World Cup rested from the side that played New Zealand Unfortunately, I World Cup so this occasion is an exciting one for me.

I have tremendous re-Zealand rugby and for this team, which has clearly demonstrated that they

possess individuals who are among the best in their respective positions in the world. I'm delighted that we have two games against them. One of the Australia is that, having discovered more about them, we do not have the chance to put into practice what we have learnt, though I accept the danger of oversaturation of internationals.

It may be that most people will write us off but, for the team, that is not an issue. It is what we believe ourselves that matters. In that respect, I was disappointed by the crowd at Twickenham last Saturday: you need your own crowd to get behind you before the game starts, not merely when

edges as posopposition and one of those is having a very atmospheric stadium in which to invite other countries to play. I agree that the style and standard of rugby helps to generate a buzz

among support-

ers, but there believed we could win were has to be a meeting place between expectation and reality. This England team has only just been brought together, one third of it was entirely new against Australia and we were up against well-drilled. high-class opponents.

That's a situation where we need the crowd behind us from the word go and I'm sure that Old Trafford will be buzzing from liam onwards. There's bound to be a huge amount of northern passion: I've watched football at Old Trafford and I can safely say the atmosphere will be different to that of a normal

rugby crowd.

My previous visit is a reminder that even the best of teams can come unstuck. It was a couple of years ago and I was following Chelsea against Manchester United. Chelsea, who are a bit of a bogey side for United, won. This England team know that we have to improve as a side, but if our supporters see the players busting a gut to do just that, they cannot go home unhappy.

Scotland attempt to emerge from mist well against these sides but have

THE Lloyds TSB international between Scotland and Australia at Murrayfield should provide both countries with a clearer picture of where they stand now and what they can expect in the future. Australia are ending what for them has been an unsatisfactory season. while Scotland are starting on a new venture with a mixture of optimism and trepidation.

and Perry adds to the impression.

with his leggy, coltish appearance. One of Peter Noone's hits, as lead

singer of Herman and the Hermits,

would have suited Perry down to

the ground: I'm into something

good. An hour after England's

drawn game with Australia a week

Dallaglio had categorised as disap-

pointing, Perry was bubbling over

with sheer delight at the moment,

at having made his debut for his

country and discovering that he

20-year-olds with the sporting world at their feet. How often do we

find sportsmen full of premature

gravitas, analysing every last mo-

ment until their eyes appear to be

turning square, rather than dem-

onstrating so evident a pleasure at

the taste to their liking.

having raised the cup and finding

Today Perry wins his second

England cap at full back. Last week it was Twickenham, this week it is

Old Trafford. Last week it was

Australia, 1991 world champions,

this week it is New Zealand, best in

the world, even if they are not

holders of the World Cup. How can

That is how it should be for

had what it takes.

which even Lawrence

Since the sides met at Murrayfield last year — when Australia won 29-19 — Scotland have underperformed in the five nations' championship before partially redeeming themselves on their development tour of South Africa. With five players also. contributing to the success of the British Isles, Scotland appeared to be emerging from the mists with a better idea of their best side and, more importantly, with some strength in depth.

However, a combination of injuries and selectorial whim means the Scotland side that plays today shows 11 changes, two of them positional, from that which lost to Australia for the sixth consecutive time last November. There is a new captain in Andy Nicol, and four

new caps, Grant McKelvey, at ball against the Australians, who hooker, Scott Murray, at lock, Adam Roxburgh, at blind-side

flanker and James Craig, on the right wing. Duncan Hodge has also been drafted in this week to replace the injured Rowen Shepherd at full back. It will be Hodge's first full cap and he will also be the goal kicker. It is a gamble given that Hodge normally plays at either fly half or centre. But the selectors

have placed considerable faith in

the threequarter line, which shows

attacking potential, and wanted to

keep disruption to a minimum. With Jim Teller and Ian McGeechan now heavily involved in team preparation it will be interesting to see whether the dynamic game plan that served the Lims so well will be the blueprint Scotland adopt.

They would hope so, but the loss through injury of the forwards. Tom Smith, Doddie Weir and Rob Wainwright, is a significant setback to those ambitions, and the Scottish pack is inexperienced and looks lightweight. Winning enough By Mark Souster

did so much damage to England last week, will be their difficulty. Nicol, who leads Scotland for the

first time in a full international, agreed that winning and, more agreed that winning and, more importantly, keeping possession would be the key. "Australia have top-class backs but if they do not have the ball they cannot use it," he said yesterday. "There is a great spirit in our squad; fresh ideas, enthusiasm and exuberance can overcome any rawness."

Whether that will be enough to lift the Scots, who are notoriously slow out of the blocks in the autumn, remains to be seen. With Townsend at fly half any-

thing is possible, but after Australia's lacklustre draw against England, in which they at least scored two tries, Rod Macqueen will hope that his influence is beginning to bear fruit after Greg Smith's unhappy tenure. Had John Eales converted any one of four missed kicks then Australia would have won at Twickenham. Scotland last beat Australia in Brisbane in 1982, the only occasion

that they have recorded an away victory over one of the southern hemisphere big three. David Johnston, now the assistant coach, played that day. "Since then it hs been a case of falling at the final hurdle," he said. "We have played

TODAY'S TEAM	VIS AT I	MURRAYFIELD
SCOTLAND		AUSTRALIA
D W Hodge (Watsonians)	15	S Larkham (ACT)
J M Craig (West of Scotland)	14	B N Tune (Queensland)
A G Stanger (Hawick)	13	T J Horan (Queensland)
A V Talt (Newcastle)	12	P W Howard (ACT)
K.M Logan (Wasps)	11	J W Roff (ACT)
@ P J Townsend (Northampton)	10	E Flatiey (Queensland)
A D Nicol (Bath) Captain	9	G M Gregan (ACT)
D ! W Hilton (Bath)	1	R L L Harry (NSW)
G McKelvey (Watsonlans)	2	M A Foley (Queensland)
M J Stewart (Northampton)	3	A T Blades (NSW)
S J Campbell (Dundee HSFP)	4	J Langford (NSW)
S Murray (Bedford)	5	J A Eales (Queensland) Captain
A Roxburgh (Kelso)	6	O Finegan (ACT)
I R Smith (Moseley)	7	B J Robinson (ACT)
E W Peters (Bath)	8	V Ofahengaue (NSW)

REPLACEMENTS: 16 C A Joiner (Leicester), 17 C REPLACEMENTS: 16 M Hurdy (ACT), 17 S J Payne M Chakmers (Meinose), 18 G Armstrong (New-PLSM), 18 D J Wilson (Queensland), M Chalmers (Metrosa), 18 G Armstrong (New-castle), 19 S D Grimen (Westonians), 20 G Graham (Mencastle), 21 G C Bulloch (West of Scotland) 21 M Cockbain (ACT), 20 A Heath (NSW), (Mencastle), 21 G C Bulloch (West of Scotland)



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صكذا من رلامل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Climbing back to the top Down Under

After a rollercoaster career.

the world stage beckons

once more for Terry Venables

t is a wild ride with Terry. It is worldwide Hart Lane and Lancaster Gate. Sometimes it is wideeyed and breathless, like Michael Palin rushing for some overcrowded paddle-steamer; sometimes it is sassy. like Jonathan Raban on a hulking transatlantic freighter; sometimes it is more broading, like Marlow setting off up the Thames on his yawl and his voyage to the heart of

You can take the tour with the most captivating, compel-ling yarn-spinner in English football from a cosy little back room in a Knightsbridge wine bar. It starts in Australia these days with the improbable tale of Venables coaching the antipodeans to the brink of the World Cup finals in France next summer. That part, at least, like a clump of Marlow's sky, is a "benign immensity of unstained light".

But there are times when Venables's career has resembled one of the dark places of the earth, and he takes you there, too. Unflinchingly, he heads back to Alan Sugar, the Tottenham Hotspur chairman, back to some of those dark days before Euro 96 apparatchiks at the Football Association were treating him with a distaste that his achievements as England coach did not warrant.

There are the happy times too, of course - the winning of the Spanish championship with Barcelona - but, somehow, the collapse of his relationship with the FA is the best part of the journey, the part when it gets bumpy. This is where the passion rises in Venables's voice. It might not have the exoti-

cism of, say, the match in Teheran today, where Austra-lia play the first of two matches against Iran in which an aggregate victory will book their place in France, but it gives you a glimpse of the nobility beneath the ducking and diving, East-End wide boy, El Tel façade that has been pinned on him. For a moment, when he

talks about those struggles with Sugar and how the FA tried to humiliate him before Euro 96 - when they said that

top tables fuelling inspiration

with numerous cups of coffee.

After much chin-stroking and

brow-furrowing their caffeine-

kindled schemes catch fire and

hey presto

yours, at a price.

the dream is

Before they can

sell the idea, they

have to sell the

name. If your cli-

ent happens to be

that is where the

enigma begins. "l

think it's just the

nounced by the

Barnsley,

the rounded 'a' means it sounds OK," Jim Stringer,

senior copywriter at Cicero,

one of the leading advertising

South Yorkshire tongue, does

sound irrefutably downbeat.

The vowel in the first syllable

is flat and long, while the

second syllable is clipped.

Phonetically, it would be spelt:

Barnsley, especially in the

agencies in the North, said.

"I am actually quite proud of what I did in not standing for that," Venables said. "I am quietly proud of the way ! under any circumstances. No

"People say. 'Oh you dope, you should have done this or that', but I shouldn't have, I shouldn't have done that, otherwise I am nobody. I am now the coach of Australia win, lose or draw and England and Glenn [Hoddle, the England coach] and everybody at the FA are happy and I'm happy, because I have got complete belief in what I do.

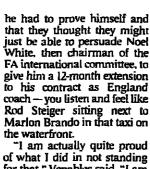
I will say that. But regrets? Please, if you believe anything. believe me, because I have this problem. People say, 'You are just saying this or you are just regrets whatsoever. I have got me to live with. In later years, I will be saying, 'Well done, son, you didn't say to Noel White. oh please let me have another chance". Who is he to tell me? It is not on. And that is my honest feeling. I have said it to you as succinctly as I have ever

dragged each other through

happy times," he said, "but I have had two or three years of a situation where most likely different way. I have not enjoyed it and he hasn't enjoyed it, I wouldn't think, but

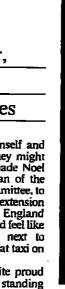
handled it, because I don't think you should keep a job one should do that or else you are not worth the salt.

what is happening to England.



"There is a little envy of

is tone grows more reflective, even a little weary, when discussing Sugar, who has attempted to bring down Venables just as Venables, now the Portsmouth chairman, has tried to bring him down as they have



another for knowing what has gone on and how naive over the years you are about what goes on and how far tentacles

"My life has been full of Sugar and me, if we had our time again, we would most likely have dealt with it in a

work, death - are played out

in a drab, monotonous

rhythm. Its 225,000 residents

know full well how their town

is perceived, and, though they

may claim not to

care, they are at-

fronted and hurt.

in fact, much of

the town's charac-

ter - warm but

weary, stoical but

sentimental - is

shaped by this

eternal us and

them" perspec-

Football has fi-

nally supplied a

fingerhold on the

covets. When Barnsley FC

were promoted to the FA

Carling Premiership, hope

and self-esteem sweetened the

daily grind. Barnsley's tourist

information centre has seen a

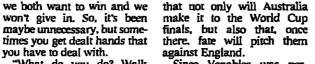
200 per cent increase in inqui-

ries since promotion. "The club's success has given us an

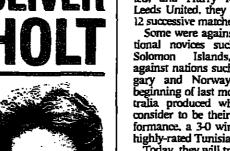
extra boost," Ann Untisz, a

tourism officer, said. "People

have heard of us now and we



"What do you do? Walk Since Venables was peraway and people say you are guilty. They tell you it's only the lawyers that make the money and I agree with that



wholeheartedly. I am poorer and then told to leave when the in one respect and richer in recovery is complete.

can reach when it comes to power. It is frightening for the man in the street." It has always been to the man in the street that Venables has instinctively appealed. He has got the common touch, a kind of natural affinity with the public that has successfully managed to manufacture for himself. Even though he is the England coach no longer, there are still

those who are openly hoping

Mark Hodkinson's Barnsley odyssey takes in the muddy waters of marketing

Efforts to refine the talk of the town

ers will see merely Oakwell, others will choose to spend the

weekend in Barnsley. They

will discover that 10 per cent of

the borough is in the Peak

District National Park and

that 70 per cent of it is

designated green belt. There

are country homes, museums,

art galleries, country parks,

monuments, walled gardens,

Cicero has the county of

steam railways and markets.

Cumbria as a client and,

should Barnsley call, it is

ready for the challenge. "I

think changing Barnsley's im-

age would have to be done

gradually. There is too much

history to shrug off in a short

"It would be no use overdo-

space of time," Stringer said.

ing it and trying to fool people

that Barnsley is something that it isn't. We couldn't say

that everything is rosy in the

garden when people remem-

ber miners scrapping with

policemen at the pit gates just

Any marketing sheen placed

on Barnsley should not be

allowed to camouflage the

truth. The place is beset by

economic problems and a new

report has revealed that it is

the poorest town in Britain. A

glimpse through the local

a lew years ago.'

suaded earlier this year to take over as coach of an Australia team that boasts promising young FA Carling Premiership players such as Mark

Bosnich, of Aston Villa, Stan Lazarides, of West Ham United, and Harry Kewell, of Leeds United, they have won 12 successive matches. Some were against international novices such as the

Solomon Islands, others against nations such as Hungary and Norway. At the beginning of last month, Australia produced what many consider to be their best perhighly-rated Tunisia.

Today, they will try to make it a lucky thirteenth win against Iran before attempting to complete the job in Melbourne a week later. For Venables, it will be the culmination of the latest in a long line of repair jobs that have seen him drafted in like a doctor patching up a patient

"if I look back over the last jobs that I have had," he said, "they have all been ailing teams that I have made feel better again. Tottenham was a hard job. People do not remember how the club was and how the players were when 1 took over. Everyone was at the end of their careers. Gough had left, Hoddle had left, Ardiles had finished. Clemence had finished. I built it up again. It was terrific, then you get it right and you're off.

"And then you get an ailing England and you get it right and you're off. And an Australian team that wants to hit the

newspaper, the Barnsley Chron-

icle, reveals a

cial problems. The role of

dishonour in-

cludes the usual

amalgam of

drug dealers, drunks, aggres-

sors. racists.

cence dodgers

and people who

relieve them-

selves in hedge-

rows after a

night on the

club has done

The football

much to to ameliorate the

town's sullied image, both

through its success and its

enterprising so le of play, but

this week it was drawn into

ignominy when Dean Jones, a

20-year-old reserve team play-

er, failed a drug test. He has

the woeful distinction of being

the first player at a Premier-

Jones, who was born in

Barnsley and still lives in the

town, tested positive for am-

phetamine and could face a

ship club to do so.

smalltown

headlines and you get it right and then for different reasons, maybe because of distances, I

Venables admits to being a little envious of England's success, but he has plenty to smile about himself, having taken Australia to the brink of the World Cup finals next summer

might be off.

The thing now is to get through these two games against Iran or it will all be academic. There is an incredible explosion of interest from the Australian people, but you are always going to struggle with a sport, I believe, that is not driven by television. If it is not driven by television, it will not prosper quickly enough. But at the same time, Australia cannot afford to be out of this world game. They want to be in it and they are trying their best, but their culture

won't allow it. Before I went there, I had a lot of trouble with the fact that everyone wanted an Austra-To be fair, I find them quite good. If they want to have a row, they'll have one and I'll have one as well and we'll have a beer and that's how it should be. I find it a healthy

sort of fight. I have always

loved a challenge. There is not a chance of even dreaming about me having divided loyalties if Australia play England in the World Cup. I gave every ounce I had for England when I was coach and I loved it. It was my home country and it was a special feeling. To the day I die, I am very proud of that and they can't take that away. But if it comes to Australia against England, not a chance."

And so the journey with the Socceroos continues. From Teheran to Melbourne and then. if the fates are kind, on to Marseilles for the World Cup draw on December 4 and the competition next June. Terry Venables could have been nobody if he had sacrificed his pride. Instead he is somebody. He is a contender again.

has never played for the first team, or in-

deed been in a

squad. In recent

weeks he has

also struggled to

make the re-

serves. No mat-

ter; the incident

has brought

shame on the

club. "He was

tested on a Mon-

day morning

and the feeling

locally is that he

had taken some-

thing over the

weekend, per

haps on a Satur-

day night and it was still in his

It is widely accepted that

each generation has its own

particular palate for the use of

intoxicants and Jones, if his

drug-taking is proved to be

solely recreational, is far from

atypical. The difference is that

he is a professional footballer

with Barnsley FC, and Barns-

ley, the town and the club, can

do without yet another slur on

its good name, however it is

system," an insider said.

first-team

Chile trio ready to turn up the heat



The 17-year-old Pelé, centre, galvanised the 1958 Brazil World Cup-winning team

Sweden, 1958. Amarildo when Pelé fell by the wayside in Chile 1962 Geoff Hurst, of England, four years later, when the West Ham United player replaced Jimmy Greaves promptly and powerfully headed the winning goal against Argentina in that bruising quarter-final at Wembley and added another three in the final, the second of which may or may not have been valid.

Who, in France, next year, will emerge with such kudos? Marcelo Salas, of Chile, is certainly a candidate, a remarkably prolific goalscorer for both club and country. At the moment, rich clubs all over Europe, Manchester United among them, are falling over themselves to prise him from River Plate, of Buenos Aires, who themselves bought him from Univeridad Catolica of Santiago in 1996 after their local rivals. Boca Juniors. had failed in their bid. Salas just cannot stop

scoring, except when he's injured, as he was for a hat-trick for his country against Colombia in the World Cup eliminators in a 4-1 victory in Santiago, all of them scored in the first

ivan Zamorano set up two of them and the big centre forward, now with internazionale, has been offered in trade for Salas by the Milanese club. Together, the two of them could get goals in France and they might yet be reinforced by the third outstanding Chilean striker, Rozenthal, of Rangers, who has been injured for so long.

italy, having made such heavy weather of qualification, are talking about bringing in new, fresh. younger players, but they are hardly thick on the ground. The best of their

VOURESters is surely the precocious 19-year-old goalkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon. Angelo Peruzzi stands in

Is there a new Pelé ready to

grab headlines in the World Cup? **BRIAN**



his way at the moment. but Buffon already looks

England have three real candidates for France among their under-21 players. Rio Ferdinand was, very properly, given his first cap against Cameroon and should surely stay in the team, whether or not Glenn Hoddle goes for broke and risks him as an out-andout libero, in the Franz Beckenbauer mould. Ferdinand is surely a better bet than Gareth Southgate, a less naturally gifted defender with an odd propensity to basic error.

mile Heskey should also be considered. People are talking about him as a centre forward and, in such a role, he ran rings around the usually dominant Sol Campbell when Leicester City beat Tottenham Hotspur at Filbert

I see Heskey as an allrounder, an ambidextrous winger as well as centre

forward of power, pace and more skill than people give him credit for. Then there is the

marvellous boy, Liverpool's 17-year-old Michael Owen, with opportunist flair, a remarkable self-confidence.

Swanica: phi

the struggle f

How young is too young? In 1958, Brazil did not hesitate to put in the 17-year-old Pelé, who. initially injured, proceeded to transform the team and score half a dozen goals in the last three games, two of them true masterpieces in a

Twenty years later, Diego Maradona, at the same age, could have graced the Argentina team, but his mentor, Cesar Luis Menotti, would not take the risk and the inside-left place went to the "safer" choice, Alonso.

Argentina won through in the end, but though Alonso did not fail, Maradona might have given the team an easier ride to success.

S outh Korea, who always seem to qualify and who gave Germany such a fright in the 1994 tournament, have a new hero in their 23-year-old striker, Young Soo Choi; the scorer of eight goals in eight qualifying games. among them all three in the victory against Uzbekhistan, Yoo Sang Chul, who makes the wheels turn in midfield, is another who could succeed.

The United States, who came through so strongly in the end, after earlier wobbles, have rehabilitated a player well known in England. Roy Wegerle, 34, is indeed no youngster, but, revitalised after nine knee operations, he has in turn revitalised America's attack after being discarded for a couple of years.

He scored twice against Canada and has been a new player since he moved from Colorado to the Washington dub, whose success in the American soccer league had much to do with his form. Chelsea. Luton Town and Queens Park Rangers will remember



he Mullahs of market-ing relish a challenge. Interpolation image as a grim, soot-black-ened town where the corner-stones of life — birth, school.



Jones: drugs test

Barnet is a similar word, but kind of glamour that Barnsley

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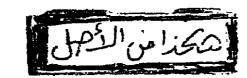
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programme and the second



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Swiss role puts Spurs in a jam

spur announced this week that George Gra-ham or Glenn Hoddle or Barbara Windsor was coming to take over at White Hart Lane, they might have been saved. As it is, they are as doorned as the Spice Girls, and with much the same leadership problems. The tetchy, dreary and dry appointment of "Hans" Christian Gross this week is the latest tiny shift from a club that specialises in begrudging little changes, unaware that we live in the age of Big Gestures and that Tottenham and their bored supporters might only come back to life with a bomb under them.

Spurs used to be such a jazzy side too. But there they go, blindly leaping aboard the borrowed ideology that a sober and serious continental "technician" will come in and make them look intense and interesting. How they found someone less charismatic than Gerry Francis beggars belief, but this new po-face is shaping up to steal even Arsene Wenger's killjoy crown, and believe me, whatever small on-field benefits Wenger has so far brought to Highbury are a high price to pay for the man being

such an out-and-out drag.

Tottenham are lost. They have been lost for ages and will remain lost. They are confusing monolith-ic insecurity and bullshit inscruta-bility with Manchester United's

Gazza ruins punchline

AFTER sharing a soothing cold drink with Paul Gascoigne last Sunday, I wave him off to the airport sobbing into a handkerchief and imploring him not to be a stranger. "Make some time for yourself, Paul!" I say. "Go nuts and get sent off." I say. "Get yourself a nice relaxing ban." I say. That's the trouble with foot-ballers. No sense of humour.

grandeur or Liverpool's warmth. Tottenham supporters — famous for their boot-licking timidity will surely not take one more example of their board's bloody-mindedness. All clubs think deep down that their supporters are nosy outsiders who, unfortunately, are "the market", but Spurs have begun to make Buck House look like Liberty Hall. Talk about Mother Knows Best.

First, Gerry Francis. When did it finally sink in at boardroom level that it wasn't happening for him? I know he will whip out the statistics book to prove otherwise, but football clubs do not live in statistics books. They are experienced in the hearts, eyes and wallets of their supporters. Alto-gether now the difference between staff and supporters at a club is that supporters pay to get in and staff are paid to come in. Puts a real slant on a match, that! So when supporters say bugger off to a manager — or player, come to that — it isn't meant as a subtle flagging to the director's box of some possible future discontent. It means bugger off. Now. Respect it.

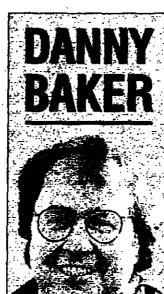
There's no more empty phrase in football than when a belea-guered boss, after being booed by the crowd, puffs himself up and says: "They are entitled to their opinion but I'm not a quitter." As though there's some deeper apprethough there's some deeper appreciation of football that supporters aren't quite up to speed with. "Not a quitter?" Be a quitter! Quit! You've had a go, it fell flat, walk away. Stoic intransigence is not necessarily noble. Sometimes you're simply being a berk.

This stubborn loftiness of the modern bic-time British manager

modern big-time British manager is all Alex Ferguson's fault. For, as you are never allowed to forget, Fergie, eventually got it right. Now every two-bob, thick-ear, expro in a hot seat is given licence to drive a club into the sea because, after all, didn't it take Fergie a long time to "get it right"? Well, you know what? I don't think Fergie did "get it right."



November 15, 1994. The warning signs are already in evidence for the new Tottenham manager



I reckon he has very little idea of what he was doing so different preand post that dramatic 6-2 victory at Arsenal in 1990 that got the present juggernaut rolling. Sud-denly his patchy side got a little air under its wings and if it made him look like a master genius who had it all mapped out. He's undoubted-

a great manager but only he knows the amount of smoke, mirrors, PR and sleight of hand that brings you to such a place.

And now we have the dour

Christian Gross, late of Grasshopper, and, unless I'm thinking about someone else entirely, former manager of the excellent Alpine Horn Swiss restaurant in London's noisy Wardour Street. His first directive towards the White Hart Lane faithful is that discipline, punctuality and grooming will count for everything at his version of Spurs. They maybe on their way down but they will go down in an orderly fashion, on time and wearing sober blazers with slacks.

So here goes. I hereby predict that this man's reign at Tottenham will be one of the most disruptive, disastrous and embarrassing peri-ods in its history. Alan Sugar will blame disruptive outside elements and point out that Herr Gross was a great manager who should have been given time like Alex Ferguson

... although, yes, on reflection, the insistance upon walking canes and monocles was a publicity fiasco. As per usual, the supporters will have seen this coming and, wouldn't it be nice if, just this once, somebody emerged from the ivory tower and said to them: "You know, you told us we were going wrong a year ago and we never listened. Well, we were wrong. We apologise. Here's your money back. Sorry."

Instead, it will be a curt press

release thanking Mr Big for taking the team into the Dr Marten's League and a brief welcome to our new coach ... Graeme Souness, whose door, don't forget, will always be open ...

AND still they come. Those who insist a goal may be scored direct from a kick-off. Whatever obscure regulations and expert opinions these peculiar folk produce, it is clear that they are labouring under some potty illusion that is probably the result of an old newspaper April Fool story. I know a man who swore he once saw a bubble-car being dragged along by a large and powerful rat which had gripped the vehicle by the number plate. The rat, it seems,

wanted to take the car to its "nest". It was only after several years of circulating this nonsensical vision that he realised that he had seen the image in an old Betty Boop cartoon, and had later convinced himself that he had lived through such an experience. Similarly, West Ham United supporters tell me that they once won the League.

Bow tie collars rattle market

nant of Millwall I have received a lot of correspondence regarding similarly poor merchandise from all sorts of different clubs. However, appalling though the stan-dard of many official products may be, the ultimate tale of football memorabilia concerns The Home Made Wooden Bow Tie of Dundee United.

A caller to the radio show told

me that when he was a young lad many years ago he was just about the most fanatical supporter Dundee United had. One year, when his birthday rolled around. his father asked him if he wanted a scarf or bobble hat that might identify him as a loyal fan wherever he went. Two pop's surprise, the boy asked for a football bow tie. Now, whereas many a father might have explained that there is no such thing as a football bow tie, this one simply rolled up his sleeves, spit on his hands and disappeared into the workshop. He emerged on birthday morning with A Football Bow Tie. It was made out of plywood, roughly two feet from side to side, painted in the club colours — orange and black — with the word United spanning its length in white.

It turned out that the piece could be worn in the traditional bow tie manner by the simple fastening of

AFTER my story two weeks ago of The Hopeless Penon to the reverse side — the collar not needed elsewhere since the family pet had been run over some months previously. This he did at the very next home game collecting, as he put it, "quite a few complimentary notices." However, this notoriety came at a price. For quite early on it became apparent that the knot part of the bow tie was deceptively bulbous and refused to allow his chin to settle on it with any comfort.

After much thought and considering the thing from all angles, his father headed once more for the workshup, emerging with the bow tie intact but now, instead of the dog collar arrangement, it was nailed to the end of a long broom handle. Still clearly a bow tie, but no longer a practical one. The caller purred with pride as he recalled how the very next week he entered the ground holding aloft the two-foot plywood bow tie like a Roman Centurion at the head of his legion — passing those who boasted mere rosettes and rattles with a superior stride. Sadly, the story ends on a downbeat tone because when I inquired where the Home Made Wooden Bow Tie of Dundee United is today, he replied with the phrase that represents the constant sorrow of grown men everywhere: "I think my mother

Pleat's credit notes lose their currency

STOP PRESS! As I write this, the rumour of David Pleat's wooing to Tottenham looks like it might become fact. It's actually touching the way football fans are suckers for believing that when old favourites return, so will old triumphs, but as anyone who went to see the Steely Dan reunion tour last year will know, even the mightiest turns should never go home. Besides, shouldn't managers fresh from disastrous spells at big clubs have to sit some kind of exam or at least spend some time in a cell as penance for messing everyone about? Pleat maybe a superb chap and a party animal

club is in quite so difficult a

position as Aberdeen, but

anxieties are widespread

nonetheless. Even the Old

Firm fret. Rangers will be

but is anyone seriously denying that his track record is smelling a bit gamey? He certainly has his powerful friends. I couldn't believe it when it was suggested both in print and on television that Sheffield Wednesday's 5-0 win the week after Pleat's fingernails were finally prised from the door frame was proof that he was on the verge of getting it right. Duh? They're bottom, he leaves, they win 5-0. He gets credit. Using that logic, Pete Best was responsible for Sergeant

Pepper.

☐ Danny Baker is on Talk Radio (1053-1089am) every Saturday from 5.30pm.

Swansea's plight typifies the struggle for survival

By RUSSELL KEMPSON

AS THE FA Carling Premier-ship rolls relentlessly on, counting its cash in millions, many in the Nationwide League are struggling to make ends meet. The difficulties of Swansea City, Oxford United and Scarborough are genuine, not imagined.

Of the three, Swansea appear in the most imminent danger. Their third division fixture against Chester City at the Vetch Field this afternoon was called off yesterday because safety work had not been carried out. They were given a deadline of noon today by the city's safety of sports grounds committee, but realised they would not meet it.

Swansea have to carry out repairs to a back-up electricity generator, update the internal radio network at the ground and remove loose masonry from under the North Bank. "This work must be done for supporters to be admitted to the ground." John Spence. chairman of the safety council. said. The League is to conduct

an inquiry. Oxford's predicament involves finance or, rather, the lack of it. Denis Smith, the manager, has been told to prune his first division squad from 25 to possibly 21 - all the players were put up for sale earlier this week - and the



club is only keeping afloat because its main creditors are behaving "co-operatively". Several backroom staff are expected to lose their jobs. At Scarborough, John Rus-

sell, the chairman, has threatened to resign if the attendance for the game against Rotherham United to-day does not exceed 4.000. "I'm asking the people of Scarborough to please come and support us," Russell said.



Dowie: Portsmouth target would be attractive."

"We've been through a lot in the last few years and we've pot to see some encouragement from our supporters. If we don't, this will be a

Judgment Day." Scarborough are eighth in the third division but attracted only 1,408 spectators to watch their 3-2 victory over Swansea in midweek. "Rotherham is a derby match and we want to see 4,000 fans," Russell said. "If we don't get that response, then I can't carry on."

Elsewhere, business was less grim yesterday. Swindon Town completed the signing of George Ndah, 22, the gangly Crystal Palace striker, for £500,000. He will make his debut against Middlesbrough this afternoon, replacing Chris Hay, Swindon's 13-goal lead-

ing scorer, who is suspended. Bruce Rioch, the former assistant manager of Queens Park Rangers, has turned down an approach from Northern Ireland to succeed Bryan Hamilton, who was dismissed last month.

Meanwhile, Iain Dowie, the Northern Ireland and West Ham United striker, is considering a move to Portsmouth, the struggling first division club. Portsmouth have made an offer of £250,000. "Pompey are a great club with lots of tradition," Dowie said. "I need first-team football so a move

| Nicholson | cleared in drug case

SHANE NICHOLSON, the West Bromwich Albion defender, was yesterday cleared of deliberately taking an amphetamine when he called a witness, who admitted slipping the drug into the player's drink for a prank (John Goodbody writes).

However, the Football Association warned Nicholson of "the stupidity of spending time in bars frequented by drug users". The witness, who was not named, now faces possible criminal charges for possessing the illegal substance.

A three-man FA disciplinary commission found Nicholson, a full back at the Nationwide League first division club, guilty of a technical breach of the FA's drugs code, but not guilty of wilful misconduct. Nicholson provided the urine sample at the West Bromwich training ground on October 13.

Steve Double, the FA spokesman, said: "The witness told the commission that he was shocked when he heard that Nicholson had subsequently failed a drugs test, so he contacted the player and agreed to admit to his actions before the commission. The witness made the admission despite being warned that his actions could constitute a criminal offence and it was the FA's policy to report such matters."

Miller takes over at Aberdeen VICTORIES have been scarce By Kevin McCarra

for Aberdeen, but they did at least win one significant battle yesterday. Alex Miller was appointed as manager at Pittodrie after the club had afternoon. There may be a few advanovercome resistance from Coventry City, where he was

assistant to Gordon Strachan. Miller had no contract with the English club and could not be prevented from returning to Scotland. Bryan Richardson, the of the 1980s.

chairman of Coventry, had thought that Miller could be persuaded to accept an offer to remain at Highfield Road. He spoke at great length and from the heart, but the lure of the Aberdeen job was 100 great," Miller said.

Miller was manager of Hibernian until September 1996, having spent ten years in the post, but then resigned. His decision to leave Easter Road was influenced, in part, by the antipathy of supporters who may simply have tired of him. In coaching circles, however, he has never gone out of fashion.

position of assistant manager of Scotland and his tactical acumen is viewed as a significant element in the achievements of the national team. At Pittodrie, of course, the refinements of strategy may not be regarded as a priority at present and the attainment of ordinary, competent form will be the first objective. Aberdeen are bottom of the Bell's Scottish League premier division

and play Dunfermline Athlet- Miller. He is to attend today's ic at East End Park this

tages in the dismal circumstances, since they relieve Miller of some of the traditional burdens placed upon an Aberdeen manager by the supporters of the club who, understandably, are apt to refer to the high achievements

For the time being, at least, Miller will be applauded if he only leads the club as far as the security of a mid-table position, and reservations about the manager's past will also be suppressed. Miller, at Hibernian, was often accused of mistaking sterility for prudence and creating a team whose inhibitions thwarted its potential

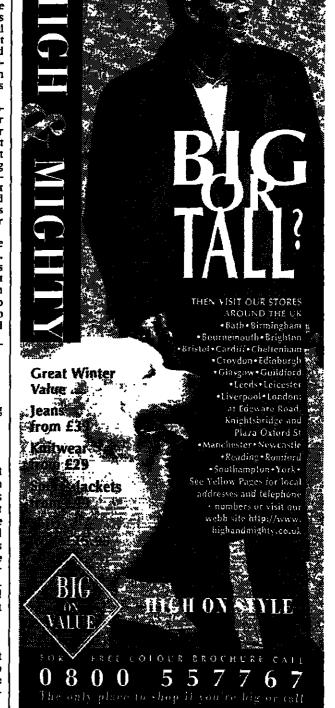
Jim Leighton, the goalkeeper who was signed by him for Hibernian and now plays for Aberdeen, disagrees with that viewpoint and points out that Miller tended to buy attacking He will continue to hold the players. Admirers of the manager will also claim that limited funds at Easter Road meant that the newcomers were not good enough to alter the character of the team.

Funds tend to be available at Aberdeen and Roy Aitken, Miller's predecessor who was sacked two weeks ago, spent £2 million in the close season alone. This is the biggest club I have ever managed, make no mistake about that," said

without Brian Laudrup, Rino Gattuso, Gordon Durie and Paul Gascoigne, who begins a game, but Keith Burkinshaw. five-match suspension, when they play Motherwell at Fir Park. Mare Rieper. Alan Aberdeen's director of football, will still be in charge of Stubbs and Craig Burley will the side this afternoon. No other premier division be missing from the Celtic side

> Heart of Midlothian, the leaders in the premier divi-sion, meet Kilmarnock at Tynecastle tomorrow.

that plays Dundee United.



Coz deal breaks new ground at Kennel-worth Road

IT'S a dog's life at Luton Town — usual story: losing team, crowd unrest, etc - but Coz Kohler is happier than most. Coz is the alsatian-border collie cross owned by David Kohler, the Luton chairman. and has recently secured himself personal sponsorship. The deal was done by Alan Corkhill, the managing director of a local printing firm, and includes Coz's photograph, proudly wearing a Luton shirt, in the matchday programme.

Corkhill used to support Kim Grant, the former Luton striker, who is now with Millwall. "Unfortunately. Kim wasn't one of the most popular players," he said. so this time, I thought I'd go for the most likeable living creature at the club. which apparently is Coz." Corkhill reckons that his canine friend could "he'd bring an extra pair of legs"—or add brine to the midfield.

Central TV's show, Goals Extra, appears at 5.05pm on Saturdays, not. help out Luton's ailing defence -

Jamaica in-crowd

Many a player from the FA Carling Premiership and Nationwide League is casting an envious glance in the direction of Jamaica, who have reached the World Cup finals for the first time. Messrs Hall, Simpson, Burton and Earle are now bound for France, having rediscovered their Jamaican roots, and perhaps Linvoy Primus, the Reading central defender, will be joining them. Primus is qualified on two counts: his mother was born on the Caribbean island and he once ate curried goat, rice and peas as a pre-match meal. "I tried it for a while but I'm back on the pasta now," he said.

Late kick-off



long after the matches finish, and so has to be edited as the games are going on. Midlands clubs are asked to provide teamsheets, so that the editors can identify the players by their numbers, and most comply with haste. Not so Birmingham City when Norwich City visited St Andrew's. Central eventually received a teamsheet by fax - at 11.15am on Monday, accompanied by the note: "Sorry, bit late."

There, there Stan

Lord Taylor of Warwick, who last year became the first black Tory peer, apparently likens his newly-arrived son, Mark, to Stan Collymore, the Aston Villa striker. "He looks a bit like Stan," Lord Taylor, a Villa fanatic, said. Perhaps Stan resembles Mark, too - he sleeps a lot, whinges and needs constant attention. One day, just maybe, he will also grow up.

Extra special

Station Sports, a Sunday league side from Southampton, were locked at 2-2 against Connaught Arms in their Hampshire Junior A Cup secondround tie. Little could separate the sides until extra time, when Sports amassed ten goals without reply. "We scored twice in the first minute and didn't look back," Phil Janes, the for singing.

Sports manager, said "Everything seemed to go in, it was amazing."

Pet hates

It's a dog's life at Barnsley, too - at least for Eric Tinkler, the South African. "It's not the football that is getting to me," he said. "It's the fact that, due to the archaic quarantine laws in this country. I have to travel miles to visit my pet dog. This is going to go on for another five months. It's crazy." Tinkler added for good measure: "Don't get me wrong. Barnsley seems like a nice place and the people are great, too. It's just that the town seems so dead."

STRANGE BUT TRUE:

Two Irish fans in Brussels last weekend, for Ireland's World Curp play-off against Belgium, were thrown out of the James Joyce bar -

هكذا من رلامهل

FOOTBALL SATURDAY





BLACKBURN ROVERS CHELSEA Today, 3.0



David Maddock When Chelsea signed Frank Leboeuf. Ruud Gullit was alerted to his transfer market success with a one-sen-

tence phone call. We've got the beef," he was told. Have they. really? Gullit has crafted an exciting and certainly fashionable team, but still seems to have incorporated that old Chelsea failing, a vulnerability away from home, especially on trips oop north. One remembers their recent visit to Bolton Wanderers. when they dominated ... but

Blackburn will not be an inviting place, either. Apart from the weather. Roy Hodgson has fashioned a team both creative and destructive and he still harbours vague thoughts of the championship. To win it, the Lancashire side must beat imposters such as their southern visitors.

The home cause is not helped by continuing injury to Hendry. who was forced to miss the Scotland game in France because of a knee ligament problem. Hodgson had hoped that it would have cleared by now, but it seems the defender will not train for at least another. two weeks. In the meantime, the

manager will busy himself in an attempt to persuade Chris Sutton to sign a new, improved five-year contract worth in excess of £25 million.

Gullit has no such problems and even has important players returning from injury, with Duberry, Le Saux and Paul Hughes all training with the first-team squad this week -"I'm knackered, it was an incredibly hard first training session after my injury. Le Saux said with commendable honesty. He will not be ready in time for a return to his former club, but has the brace on his broken arm removed next week and should then be cleared to play.

The Dutchman is a canny manager. As previously one of the boys, he could hardly have waded into the dressing-room with a big stick. Instead, he has cleverly rotated his squad to introduce the fear factor that every manager ultimately requires. It has worked well, but the lack of continuity has not helped on those visits up

For this one, Gullit will put his faith in an Italian forward line to avoid the embarrassment suffered at Bolton. That was not good enough. If we are to challenge for trophies this season, we cannot afford to be so generous to the opposition by refusing to take so many chances," he said.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable 4-4-2)* Flowers — J Kenna, S Henchoz, T Pederson, G Croff — S Ripley, T Sherwood, W Mckinlay, G Filteroff — C Sulfon & Gallacher CHELSEA (probable, 44-2) E De Goey — F Sinclar, F Leboeuf S Clarke A Myers — D Wise, R of Matrice, E Newton, D Politescu — G Zola, G Vialli

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10.50pm, extended highlights.

■ PREDICTION: Chelsea to impress, but lose, a la swinging Sixties

> thunderbolt. It was ever thus. If those talks do take place and



Mr Ronderful: The new Wednesday manager realises he may have made another verbal slip

Photograph: John Giles/PA

THE BIG IDEA

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5. LEEDS ____

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7. LEICES E

8. DERE 100.

9. WINE ETC.

11. COVE

10. NEWCASTE IT

14. WEST HALL --

115. ASTON VIEW

18, BOLTON WAY CERE L. .

3. BLACKS OF WIFE ON THE ART OF THE

For the benefit of any Shetfield Wednesday players who have strug-gled this week with the new boss's unique use of the English language, we have compiled this handy guide to some phrases that may crop up in

1. Early doors. Anytime between the kick off and the

2. For fun. Making your task look easy.

3. Big ugly whip. A cross curling "wickediy" aw from the goalkeeper.

4. In the mixer. A threatening area in which to put

5. Pull the trigger. The right time to shoot

6. The back stick. The far post.

7. Nice bright feet.

A rather good pass.

9. Hell of a knock. See above, but over a longer

10. The big fella. Any tall player in the opposing team.

11. Stick or bust Sony, we don't know what he's talking about here, either.

Compiled by Richard Whitehead





SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY ARSENAL Today, 3.0



Oliver Holt From Kettering to West Bromwich Albion, from Manchester United to Aston Villa and

Coventry City and now back for a second spell at Hillsborough, Ron Atkinson has done the rounds. Today, he starts on the latest stage of his colourful career, trying to lift Sheffield Wednesday out of the relegation zone with victory over Arsenal, second in the FA Carling Premiership.

He inherits a host of problems. His new team is painfully short of confidence, he has two lavishly talented but illdisciplined Italians in Benito Carbone and Paolo di Canio, a Frenchman, Patrick Blondeau, who is having problems settling in Yorkshire and, perhaps most significantly. only a short time in which to turn it all around.

Atkinson, so adept at fashioning fine attacking sides. has a wholly different task here. The attack is already in place — it is a midfield and defence that conceded seven goals to Blackburn Rovers and six to Manchester United that has to be shored up and Atkinson will have to move quickly to do it.

The new manager is fortunate that he will be facing an Arsenal side considerably below full strength, even if it has been buoyed by its victory over United at Highbury a fortnight ago. Bergkamp. Petit Arsenal team, will be missing through suspension as the north London side's disciplinary failings start to bite, while Vicira is still ruled out with a knee injury. After his own concerns that he has overcommitted himself to charity work and commercial activity. the pressure will be firmly on Wright to start scoring again after what, for him, is a goal drought, lasting all of four

The key may be how Arsenal cope with a Wednesday attack revitalised by Arkinson's instructions. Their glut of suspensions and injuries coupled with Wednesday's determination to impress their new manager could cause an upset at Hillsborough and get Big Ron off to a flier.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-4-2): N. Progress — P. Brandow, J. Marriotte O. Napret, Hilliam — M. Perrottiga, P. Phys., J. Marriotte, P. G. Carlotte, A. Boeth, S. Marriotte, P. G. Carlotte, A. Boeth, S.

Capone
ARSEMAL (4.4.0); D Seeman — L Dison G
Seminot: A Acons M Whitebun — A
Mandez, R Passas, D Riad, S Haghs... — M
Opermed 1 Verght Referee * 8 # 30

■ TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights. PREDICTION: Wednesday revival to begin with a win



Referee: S Lodge

was textbook Savo. First, he telis a Yugoslav

newspaper that he wants to play in Italy (have to take this on trust. can't read Serbo-Croat), then Napoli say "We're in Italy, he must mean us" and make a £4.5

Richard Hobson

He might have

helped Jamaica to

the World Cup

finals last week-

end, he might

even be the most

revered of the

"Reggae Boyz", but Kingston is

many miles from Derby and

Deon Burton can expect to deco-

rate the substitutes bench this

Jim Smith, the Derby County

progress that supporters

manager, believes that it is a sign

should be unhappy with a return

of five points from the last five FA

Carling Premiership games, each

against stiff opposition. The same

fixtures realised just two points

last season and Smith is right to

warn that development can only

having spent the Nineties yo-

voing between the divisions, the

paths of Leicester City and Bolton

Wanderers cross for only the

second season in the decade -

and few would want their money

Bolton, with only one League

win and nine goals since the

opening day of the season, are

clearly in the greater danger, the

team that stormed the Nation-

wide League first division once

again finding their deficiencies

ruthlessly exposed at the higher

temperatures of the North East.

Hence his keenness to make his

first appearance for Newcastle

United today since October I and,

more importantly, to play against

Barcelona in the European Cup

Bearing in mind the length of

Asprilla's absence with a groin

injury and the impending visit to

Spain. Kenny Dalglish, the

Newcastle manager, is deliberat-

ing over whether to leave him on

the substitutes' bench for much of

the match against Southampton.

next Wednesday.

Ivo Tennani

Faustino Asprilla

has declared that

he has no inten-

tions of remain-

ing inactive in

what he perceives

to be the freezing

on a repeat fixture in 1998.

Keith Pike

It is the novelty

value of this meet-

ing rather than its

potential for rich-

es that will draw

the fans to Filbert

Street. The clubs

afternoon.

EVERTON million bid. Great run, perfect Today, 3.0 cross, an open goal, surely. No. Savo says: "No one has contacted me from Napoli and I don't want to go there." Chance gone. Er, no. Talks, as they say, are due to take place, so we leave Savo Milosevic chasing a bobbling ball around a Villa Park penalty area, trying to turn a tap-in into a 30-yard



ASTON VILLA

Milosevic does move on, then perhaps today will be Savo's swansong at Aston Villa With Yorke a possible absentee, since Trinidad and Tobago are playin Jamaica tomorrow, and Bosnich (on World Cup duty with Australia). Southgate (injured ankle) and Taylor (suspended) definite non-starters, Villa will make changes, Oakes taking over in goal and Ehiogu. Draper and Collymore, back in training after a nose operation, standing by. Everton will be without Watson

in defence, who has a sore hamstring, but Barmby is back after a month out with groin trouble. They have not won away from home in 11 months. There may be few better opportunities. ASTON VILLA (possible, 3-5-0; M Oakes — U Brogu, S Staurton, R Someca — G Charles, F Netsor, M Draper, S Grayson A Winght — S Collymore, S Midosewa.

EVERTON (possible, 4-3-1-2); N Southali — E Barret S Bife, C Short, A Hinchofile — D Widiamson, G Speed, J Oster — N Barritoy — D Cadamarien, D Ferguson

Reference I II Bernie

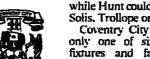
■ TELEVISION: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Draw.



DERBY COUNTY COVENTRY CITY Today, 3.0

badly miss Stimac in detence.





be gradual. The manner of defeat at Leeds United, when they squandered a three-goal lead, followed by a first loss at Pride Park, against Newcastle United in midweek, demonstrated naivety in contrasting situations. They

LEICESTER CITY

BOLTON WANDERERS

Today, 3.0 (sold out)

level. In Thompson, they have

one of the most promising mid-

field players in the FA Carling

Premiership; in Fish, a centre half

of undoubted class - but while

Blake continues his profligate

ways in attack and while iti

discipline knaws away at Colin

NEWCASTLE UNITED

SOUTHAMPTON

Today, 3.0 (sold cut)

Rush is injured, as are Barton

and Beresford, so Tomasson may

be parmered in attack again by

Barnes. Pearce will have a late

Southampton also have their

doubtful - although Hirst and cythio goals

injury problems - Lundekvam is

fitness test.

while Hunt could lose his place to Solis, Trollope or Asanovic.

Coventry City have scored in only one of six league away fixtures and face competition from Newcastle and Tottenham Hotspur for Viorel Moldovan after making a £3 million bid to Grasshopper Zurich for the Romania striker. Dublin is the most probable source of a goal this afternoon.

DERBY COUNTY (possible 3-41-2) M Poom
— G Parset, 2 Lausen, C Dall, — S Brand, J
Fur 1, Carden, C Possel — F Basen — P
Grand Spe. D Standige
COVENTRY CITY (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone
— Fluitton R Staw G Breon D Burtoss — P
Grand Share County (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone
— Fluitton R Staw G Breon D Burtoss — P
Grand D Hubrichty CITY (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone
— Fluitton R STaw G McAlleter, M Hall — D
Gueve D Hubrichty CITY (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone
— Fluitton R STaw G McAlleter, M Hall — D
Gueve D Hubrichty CITY (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone
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Gueve D Hubrichty CITY (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone

- Fluitton R STAW G McAlleter, M Hall — D
Gueve D Hubrichty CITY (possible, 4-4-2), S Ognizone

- Fluitton R STAW G McAlleter, M Hall — D
Gueve D McAlle

Refereer I Enstay ■ TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. PREDICTION: Derby to win a ciose game

Todd's resources, they will strug-

gle. Sellars completes his ban

today, but Holdsworth, cup-tied

Leicester are also in something

of a slump and today they must do

without the suspended Heskey

and, probably, Walsh, "We have

slipped recently," Elliott, their new

Scotland defender, admitted, A

golfing break in Ireland should

have re-charged the squad's bat-

ESIGESTER CITY promable 3.5-Ch k Notes — 5 Pt. or M Brott / Marshall — P Kaamak, G Parkor M Brott 5 Guppy — 5 Double 5 Featon M Bootton WANDERERS (proteable 4-4-2 K Stanapan — 3 Bederon, M Fich, 4 Todd, M John A Portos, P Francism, A Prompson 5 Bedrood, P Bake, D Hoddshorth Referenci

■ TELEVISION: Today: Match of

Richardson are expected to be fit

enough to play. Surprisingly, Ostenstad, the 25-year-old from

Nerway who scored 15 goals last

season, could be included. He

played for 45 minutes in a reserve

match at Luton Town in midweek

and has recovered sufficiently

after surgery on an ankle. It was

teared that he would not be fit for

any kind of football before

NEWCASTLE UNITED possible 4-1-11 S Hore — S Waterm, A Patern, P Abort, S Plants — Gristone Riber O Samy J Burkes — C Tempassa — P Appella

SOUTHARPTON records 4.5 http://doi.org/ s0cdo/h/Markov.D Specting F Bana — C Pank F Recordors M Oakley — M La France - E mod E Casaman

TELEVISION: Today: Match of

■ PREDICTION: Newcastle to win

the Day, extended highlights.

teries enough to secure victory.

in midweek, is back.

Referee: G Samer

Christmas.

Rateroe D Galagher

the Day goal highlights

■ PREDICTION: Home win





LIVERPOOL BARNSLEY Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Matt Dickinson "Now we'll see what they are made: Danny

son. the Barnsley manager, declared after his side's 4-1 thrashing at Southampton in their last FA Carling Premiership fixture. "I am sick of coming in after games and trying to explain another heavy defeat, so it is time the players took some responsibility. If we are going to go down, it must be with a fight, not a whimper."

With that unexpected outburst. Wilson dropped the nice guy approach and turned to Mr Nasty. Whether his team follow suit will be one of the principle themes at Anfield today. It would appear that they have little choice. Like Swindon Town and Bolton Wanderers before them. Barnsley have attempted to blend into the elite by talking the same language of attractive, passing football. They should have realised that at least half the Premiership long since gave up such pre tensions and survive on solid organisation and grit.

While Wilson was right to castigate his players for their woeful showing at The Dell, he too must take some of the blame for Barnsley's plight. The collection of individuals was never likely to be good enough to survive at this level, individual errors costing countless goals, but their approach has too often appeared to invite disaster.

That is a criticism levelled at Liverpool more than a few times in recent seasons and their uncertain start to the season has left them with no margin for error against teams as vulnerable as today's visitors if they are to mount a championship challenge. Even without Ince, who starts a three-match suspension, and Fowler, who continues his, they should have little difficulty despatching Wilson's side.

EVERPOOL (probable, 4-4-2); Dilamos — Rilanes, Bilvarme, Di Mattee, Silbjeredye — PiBorger J. Provingage, O Leoniundsen, Sildelianamen — Miczen, ki Redde, BARNSLEY (probable, 3-5-0); Dividizació— Almoser, Ade Zeowe, Pishital — Almaan, Miczolovick, N. Regleam D. Sherdan J. Bacanoc — J. Handre, A. Liddell Referee, J. Winter

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. PREDICTION: Barnsley to the slaughter - again.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports



Brian Glanville The Wimbledon faithful can start practising their chant of There's only one Stole Solbakken", for the Norway mid-

field player is likely to make his debut against Manchester United today with hopes that he can compensate for the severe loss of his compatriot, Oyvind Leonhardsen.

Wimbledon have never been afraid of United, less still now after the champions lost their aura of invincibility at Highbury last time out — and that against an Arsenal team without Dennis Bergkamp. Pallister's chronic back injury keeps him out of a game that could expose United's lefence to Wimbledon's famous aerial bombardment. Last season, United romped through the opening day league game 3-0 with David Beckham scoring that astonishing goal from the halfway line. Wimbledon took revenge in the FA Cup, drawing at Old Trafford, winning the replay at Selhurst Park.

They will have to keep a close eye on Scholes, the hero of England's win against Cameroon last weekend, who will doubtless be firing on all cylinders on the verge of his threematch suspension. Cole will surely be more effective than he was at Highbury, Schmeichel is unlikely to look as vulnerable as he did there and Sheringham, who scored twice against

Arsenal before going off, is fit. Cole has just been given a long new contract and this will no doubt help his confidence, but







WIMBLEDON MANCHESTER UNITED Today, 3.0 (sold out)

Solskjaer yet another Norwe-gian, surely deserves a regular place and will no doubt win it if Cole reverts to his old tendency

to miss good chances. This week has seen loe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, involved in yet another damage limitation exercise, defending Jones and Ceri Hughes after both were allegedly involved in violent episodes off the field - yet it remains true that on it. Wimbledon have cleaned up their act. Under Kinnear, they have enough football in their team to eschew the old style of up and under and aerial attack is only one of their several alternatives. Ekoku is out and Marcus Gayle is playing up front with Cort. McAllister and Kimble await fitness tests before the team is confirmed.

WMBLEDON (probable, 4-4-2): N Sulman — K Currangharn, C Perry, D Blackwet, A Kimble — M Andley, S Solbaldien, V Jones, R Earle — M Gayle, C Cort. MANCHESTER - UNITED (4-4-2): P Schmeichel — G Newile, R Johnsen, H Berg, P Newile — D Beachimm, N Butt, P Scholes, R Giggs — A Cole, E Sheringham. Referee: S Dunn.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. ■ PREDICTION: A draw.



Oliver Holt Last season. perhaps. most would have assumed Leeds United, the masters of solid defence,

would have attempted to nullify the traditional attacking brio of West Ham, taken advantage of their equally traditional defen-sive frailty and sneaked off with a I-0 win. Not any more. Twice this season, Leeds have

been involved in near-classic 4-3 victories, first with a topsy-turvy win over a free-scoring Blackburn Rovers side at Ewood Park in September and then, a fortnight ago, with their bravura comeback from three goals down against Jim Smith's resurgent Derby County team. That win, on top of a recent

run of impressive form, signalled that Leeds seem to have a genuine chance of qualifying for Europe this season and that the strictures of George Graham are beginning to kick in after the traumatic period of dour, dull play that marked his arrival at Elland Road. One of the secrets of his

success this season appears to be that he has been able to keep a remarkably settled side - he has only used 14 outfield players compared to, say, the 25 chosen by Southampton - and the increasing familiarity has bred confidence in the chosen play-

Tomorrow. Leeds will be without Harry Kewell, on duty today for Terry Venables' Socceroos in the World Cup qualifying play-off against Iran,





LEEDS UNITED WEST HAM UNITED Tomorrow, 4.0

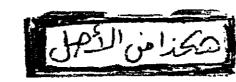
which may give Hasselbaink, whose season started so promisingly with a goal against Arsenal, a chance to win back his first-team place.

However, West Ham are also a vastly improved side since the last campaign. Hartson, in particular, is in fine form, but they have missed the presence of Kitson alongside him and the recent on-pitch sparring between Moncur and Berkovic appeared to suggest that team spirit was beginning to fray at the edges. With Ferdinand keen to press his England claims in front of the BSkyB cameras at the heart of a defence that is no longer a soft touch, this should be a highquality game. In their present incarnation. Leeds should just have the edge.

LEEDS UNITED (3-6-2): N Martyri — G Halle. L Radisbo, D Wetheral — G Kelly, D Hopkin, L Bowyor, A Ribesto, D Robertson — R Walksos, J Hassebeark, WEST HAM UNITED (3-5-2): C Forrest — 1 Pearce, R Ferdinand, D Unaworth — 1 Broacker, F Lampard, J Monour, A Impey — E Berkonc — J Hartson, S Abou.

■ TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 3pm. ■ PREDICTION: Leeds to continue winning streak.

ALL: DE) ATE





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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

It's a crazy existence, but I'd like to be a manager one day

few weeks. I have been forced to ask myself why any footballer would want to be a manager. When one as well respected as Gerry Francis departs in the manner he did, it certainly begs the question.

The answer, of course, is that football is in the blood, and no matter how much pressure there is, players will always look to continue their career in the sport There is something intoxicating about the people, the day-to-day contact and the "feel" of a club.

I don't think many players could define why they would want to face the strain of management, apart from the need to keep earning, of course, but there is definitely something addictive about the football business.

Of course, most players who go into coaching, believe that they will

that forced Francis and David at Tottenham Hotspur and Sheffield Wednesday respectively. They have to believe that success will make their jobs impregnable -- the sort of situation that Alex Ferguson has worked hard to achieve.

I would consider becoming a manager. Football is my life, and I know, even now, that I would find it attractive to stay in the game in any capacity. But I have to say that it becomes less attractive every year. These days, if you lose a few games, you are under pressure. and there is an intense concentration on a manager's every decision, every result.

Gerry Francis commanded great respect from the Tottenham players, and they are very sad to see him go. But he had a bit of a

In the end, I think he had had enough. He was subjected to unfair pressures, considering the season is harely two months old, and many of his players were injured.

Even at Liverpool, our manager has had to endure all sorts of nonsense. Roy Evans has created a new team at Antield, and it has taken time to bed all the new players in. We have had some poor results, true, but we have also played quite well in some games, and we are in a reasonable position in the FA Carling Premiership. The manager has the respect of his players, and yet plenty of people criticise him every time we have a reverse.

As I say, why bother? Still, even Gerry's sad exit has not put me off going into management one day—and I bet it hasn't put Gerry off,



either. He is a top-class coach and I'm sure he will quickly resurface. Just look at Ron Atkinson. He is back again at 58, and I'm certain he is loving every minute of it. Ron has no need to put up with some of the hassles he has faced, but he loves the game. It is that love that drives him on, just as it does so many football men.

M Cup has its merits
I KNOW that the Coca-Cola Cup has been the subject of much crincism recently, but our match against Grimsby Town offered a reasonable defence of the competition. People say it has little meaning, but try telling that to the Grimsby and Liverpool fans. Whenever a smaller team gets a crack at higher-placed opponents, there is plenty of excitement.

Liverpool have always taken the competition seriously. We have fielded our strongest side in every game, and we will continue to do that. The gaffer offered the lads who had been on England duty a rest on Tuesday, but none of us wanted it.

We will never chear our fans. If always go out to try to win. The season that most are keen to avoid.

Coca-Cola Cup is one of the three main trophies in England, and there is still a Wembley final at stake. The fact that there is no place in Europe for the winner takes the edge off it a little, and it certainly explains why Manchester United are prepared to field some of their younger players in

the competition. The European Cup is obviously their main priority, and their policy is clearly paying dividends. because they have been tremendously successful this season. United are in a good position anyway, because even if they rest players,

they can field a very strong side. There have been certain suggestions to help maintain interest in the Coca-Cola Cup and ease the burden on English clubs in Europe. One attractive idea is to turn it into an under-21 competition to give younger players a chance at the top level, although that would weigh it in favour of the big clubs, who have very strong

My preference is for a shortened competition. The Scottish League Cup programme has been criti-cised for being over so early, but I think most clubs would appreciate it if we could play most of the matches by Christmas, and then have, say, the semi-final and final closer to the end of the season. It is we are put into a game then we will fixture congestion later in the

■ Hoddle's different tactics

It wasn't the best performance by England last week, but I'm sure that the manager will have taken plenty out of it. Some critics don't seem to have completely understood what he was attempting against Cameroon.

Glenn Hoddle played a slightly different formation for this game. He used Robbie Fowler on his own up front, with Paul Scholes and me as inside forwards behind him. ahead of a central midfield pairing of Paul Gascoigne and Paul Ince.

It was a slightly unfamiliar position for me, and I had to come to terms with a role alongside Scholesy and Gazza. It may not have been an unqualified success. but with the World Cup finals still months away, the win was a bonus in the sense that it maintains the confidence within the squad. To do it with goals by Robbie and Scholesy was a real bonus because Glenn was looking at individual things, not a finished picture.

It has been suggested in some quarters that I did not do my chances of going to the finals any good with my performance, but I don't think about England like that at all. It was a team effort against Cameroon, and the manager wasn't giving us a one-off

His was a very different perspective. He wanted to see how we would cope with a new formation.

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

				- L											
(Last week's position in brackets)	NA TO	PONTS	S. K.	W	В	HOME	F	A	w	D	AWAY	F	A	LAST 10 MATCHES W·D-L	CURRENT
1. MANCHESTER UTD (1)	14	28	+21	6	-1	O			2	3	2	8	 	5-3-2	L1
2. ARSENAL (2)	14	27	+15	5	2	0	18	3	2	4	1	12	12	5-4-1	W1
3. BLACKBURN ROVERS (3)	14	27	+13	4	2		16	9	3	.4	0	10	4	4-5-1	W1
4. CHELSEA (4)	13	25	+13	4	0	1	10	6	4	1	3	19	10	6-1-3	W2
5. LEEDS UTBLEY)	14	23	+4	3	1	3	10	10	4	1	2	10	6	6-1-3	W2
6. LIVERPOOL (8)	13	22	+12	5	0	1	18	5	1	4	2	7	8	6-2-2	W1
7. LEICESTER CHY (5)	14	22	+5	3	3	2	11	8	3	1	2	8	6	4-2-4	Li
8. DERBY COUNTY (6)	13	20	+6	4	2	0	14	4	2	0	5	11	15	5-2-3	L1
9. WIMBEEDON (10)	14	19	-+1	2	2	4	8	9	_3	2	. 1	8	6	5-2-3	W1
10. NEWCASTLE UTD (9)	11	18	-1	4	2	1	10	8	1	1	2	4	7	4-3-3	D3
11. COVENTRY CRY (12)	14	17	4	.2	6	0	10	8	1	2	3	2	8	2-6-2	D1
12. CRYSTAL PALACE (13)	13	16	-2	0	3	3	4	9	4	1	2	9	6	3-4-3	D1
13. SOUTHAMPTON (16)	14	16	-4	4	1	3	13	10	1	0	5	- 4	11	4-1-5	M3
14. WEST HAM UTD (11)	13	16	-4	4	0	1	10	4	1	1	6	7	17	3-1-6	L2
15. ASTON VILLA (14)	14	15	•7	2		3	6	11	2	2	4	7	9	4-3-3	D1
16. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (15)	14	13	-10	3	2	2	7	7	0	2	5	4	14	2-4-5	L3
17. EVERTON (17)	13	. 12	-6	3	1	3	11	11	- O	2	4	4	10	2-3-5	L2
18. BOLTON WANDERERS (18)	13	12	-11	1	4	1	3		1	2	4	7	18	1-5-4	L1
19. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (20)	14	12	-12	3	1	3	13	12	0	2	5	10	23	3-2-5	W1.
20. BARNSLEY (19)	14	10	-29	2	1	4	6	15	1	0	6	5	25	1-1-8	L1

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Manchester Utd	31	2.21	ı				
3. Arsenal	30	214	ı				
4. Derby	25	1.92	l				
= Liverpool	25	1.92					
Blackburn	26	1.86					
7. Sheffield Wed	23	1.64					
8. Leeds	20	1.43					
9. Leicester	19	1.36					
10. West Ham	17	1.31					
11. Newcastle	14	1.27					
12. Southampton	17	. 1.21					
13. Everton	15	1.15					
14. Wimbledon	16	1.14					
15. Crystal Palace	13	1.00					

17. Coventry

= West Ham

19, Sheffield Wed

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4. Liverpool	13	1.00	Bε
5. Arsenal	15	1.07	. Bl:
= Wimbledon	15	1.07	Bo
7. Coventry	16	1,14	Ct
= Leeds	16	1.14	Cr
9. Crystal Palace	15	1.15	De
10. Chelsea	16	1.23	EV
11. Newcastle	15	1,36	Le
12. Aston Villa	20	1.43	Le
13. Derby	19	1.46	Liv
14. Southempton	21	1.50	Me
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16. Bolton	21	1.61	Sh
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Blackburn	19	7
Bolton	5	
Chelsea	14	15
Coventry	6	6
Crystal Palace	. 7	6
Derby	10	15
Everton	5 .	. 10
Leeds Utd	14	6
Leicester	7	12
Liverpool	- 6	19
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Southampton	8	11
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	Sutton (Blackburn)	10
ا ج	Wright (Arsenal)	9
8 5 7	Baiano (Derby)	8
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5	Carbone (Sheff Wed)	7
5	Cole (Man Utd)	7
6	Dublin (Coventry)	7
6	Gallacher (Blackburn)	7
5	Sheringham (Man Utd)	7
ō	Wallace (Leeds)	7
	Davies (Southampton)	6
6	Fowler (Liverpool)	6
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	6. West Ham	30
	7. Coventry	27
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i	17. Barnsley	21
	18. Leicester	17
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l Wright (Arsenal)	15	23	18			9	103
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E Sheringham (Man Utd)	21	14				7	83
M Le Tissier (Southampton)	15	25			13		81
A Cole (Man Utd)	-	34	21		7	7	80
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C Sutton (Blackburn)	8	25	15	0	11	10	69
C Armstrong (Tottenham)	15	22	8	15		2	67
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P Beardsley (Bolton)	10	21	12	8	5	2	58
M Hughes (Chelsea)	15	11	8	8	8	4	54
A Cottee (Leicester)	12	16	13	10	0	0	51
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	6	2	6	17	17	2	50
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3 Deane (Sheffield Utd)	15	11	9	7	5	-	47

		Cards issued	FA Premiership clubs' official websites
<u>-</u>	P	Yellow Red	Arsenal www.arsenal.co.uk
1. S Dunn	5	25 1	Aston Villa www.astonvilla-fc.co.uk
2. G Willard	8	37 3	Blackburn www.rovers.co.uk
3. P Durkin	8	37 2	Botton www.bottonwic.co.uk
4. M Reed	5	23 1	Cheisea www.cheiseafc.co.uk
5. G Ashby	7	30 1	Covertry www.ccfc.co.uk
6. P Alcock	7	30 0	C Palace www.cpfc.co.uk
7. J Winter	8	31 2	Derby
B. G. Barber	7	27 1	Eventon evertonic.merseyworld.com
9. M Bodenham	7	28 0	Leeds www.tutc.co.uk
10. D Elleray	6	23 1	Leicester www.icic.co.uk
11. U Rennie	7	26 0	Liverpool —
12. G Poll	9	29 3	Man Utd www.sky.co.uk/sports/manu
13. M Riley	7	20 1	Newcastle www.newcastle-utd.co.uk/nu/c
14. P Jones	7	19 2	Shaff Wad -
15, N Barry	7	21 0	Southampton www.soton.ac.uk/~saints
16. D Gallegher	8	20 2	Tottenham www.spurs.co.uk
17. A Wilkie	8	20 1	West Ham www.westhemunited.co.uk
18. K Burge	7	18 0	Wimbledon - —
19. S Lodge	8	15 0	FA Premiership www.fa-carling.com

WFFKEND MATCHES

	WEEKEND	MAICHES
]	TODAY	Third division
	Nucleoff 3.0 unless stated denotes all-licher Pools coupon numbers in brackets in Promership fotures (denotes sold our otherwise seas succhairles)	(31) Brighton v Cardiff (32) Colchester v Uncoln (33) Darlington v Cambridge Utd (34) Doncoster v Rochdale
1	FA Carling Premiership	(35) Exeter v Shrewsbury (36) Hartlepoot v Barnet (37) Leyton Ohent v Notts County
-	(1) Asion Villa v Everton (2) Blackburn v Chelsea (3) Derby v Coveriry (4) Leoester v Bolton (5) Liverpool v Barnsley (6) Newcastle v Southermpton (7) Shelf Wad v Arsenal (8) Wilmbledon v Man Utd	(38) Macclesfield v Hull (39) Peterborough v Mansheld (—) Scarborough v Rotherham
	(5) Liverpool v Barnsley (6) Newcastle v Southempton (7) Sheft West v Arsenal	(—) Swansea v Chester .
	(8) Wimbledon v Mari Utd	Peterboro 18 9 7 2 35 Exister 18 9 6 3 26 Notes Co 18 9 6 3 25
	First division	Lincoln City 18 9 6 3 19 Sounthorpe 18 8 6 4 24 Barnet 18 8 5 5 25
	(9) Bury v Sunderland (10) * Crewe v Slockport (11) Man City v Bradford (12) Norwich v Oxford Utd (13) Notlingham Forest v Chariton	Peterboro
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	Wolves 18 7 5 6 21 20 26 Stoke . 17 7 5 5 20 18 26	() Cheltenham v Gateshead () Halifax v Heretord
	Port Vale. 18 7 4 7 25 23 25 CIPR . 17 6 5 6 21 27 23 Rimitorium 18 5 7 6 18 15 22	() Hayes v Northwich () Hednesford v Slough () Iudderminster v Kettering
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	HuddersRd 18 3 5 10 13 30 14 Second drysion	(41) Duntermine v Aberdeen (42) Motherwell v Rangers (43) St Johnstone v Hibernian
	(20) Blackpool v York (21) Bournemouth v Carlisle	First division
(I	(22) Bristol City v Wycombe	(44) Ayr v Alrdne

(22) Bristol City	v W	VCOI	mb	9			
(23) Grimsby v	Burn	lev					
(24) Luton v Wa	lsall	-•					
(25) Millwall v C	hest	erte	ı.	•		•	
(26) Northam	400	v W	latti	ord		•	•••
(27) Oldham v	***	Nor.	•		•	•	•••
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Wycombe	18 17	5	6	6	26 17	29 17	21
Gransby	18	•	B	7	17	36	21
Plymouth	17	2	4	á	23 23	26 27	19
Wigan Southend	18	3	3	10	17	34	18
Burnley	18	3	8	7	19	22	17
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Carlisle .	ίÉ	4	4	10	ži	33	16
Brentlard .	18	4	Ā	10	18	32 31	16
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" not including last night's malch							

Hitchert Dulwich v Dagenham and Redbridge.
Hitchen, Dulwich v Dagenham and Redbridge. Entield v Harrow, Gravesend and Northfleet v
Walton and Hersham: Hendon v Boreham Wood:
Heyondge v Kingstonian: Oxford City v Carshalton:
Purfinel v Bishop's Stortland, St Albans v Aylesbury,
Sutton United v Rasingsinke: Yearling v Bromley
First diverson: Abmodion Town v Mokingham
Aldershot Town v Thame United, Barton Rovers v
Maidenhead, Billencay v Wembley: Bognor Regis v
Leatherhead, Charisey v Romford, Croydon v
Staines, Hampton v Berkhamsted, Leyton Permant
u Malocour I letandase u Crons Whytelette v
Worthing Second division: Egnsm v Challon St. Peter, Titbury v Bedford T, Windsor and Elon v
Peter, Titbury v Bedford T, Windsor and Elon v
Wivenhoe, Withom v Cheshuni, Third division:
Croydon v East Thurtock; Epsorn and Evrell v
Croydon v East Trustock; Epsom and Ewell v Constituen-Casuals, Hometurch v Southall, Lewes
v Harlow, Tring v Ford United: Were v Dorking
UNIBOND LEAGUE: Premier division: Accompton
Stanley v Bishop Auckland, Athelon v Lancaster.
Browner Brown v. Column Day Fredher v. Ramme
Bamber Bridge v Colwyn Bay, Frichley v Batrow. Guseley v Chorley: Hyde v Leigh RMI, Manne v
About the Company of the Continue Districts
Altrocham, Receilfe v Blyth Sportans, Runcom v
Gainsborough: Spennymoor v Beston, Winsland v
Emley First division: Ashton United v Harrogale
Town, Bradford Park Ave v Stocksbridge PS.
Budon v Gretna: Congleton v Whitby, Eastwood
Town v Great Harwood; Lincoln United v Droylsden
Trafford v Farsley Celtic Whatey Bay v Mattock
Town; Albion y Flaton, Workington v Belper Town,
Washings Matherfield

RYMAN LEAGUE: Promier

TELEVISION: BBC1: Today: Football Focus, from 12:20pm; Match of the Day, from 10:50pm; Tomorrow: Match of the Day frepeat), from 7:20am. Sky Sports 1: Today: Sports Salurday Update, from 12 noon; Live Spanish Football, from	I'm not sure I like the new kit
7pm. Tomorrow: Goals on Sunday, from 11am. Premiership, Leeds United v West Ham United, from 3pm (repeated Sky Sports 3, 10pm) Sky Sports 2: Tomorrow: Live Football	Line Company
League, West Bromwich Albion v Birmingham, from 12 noon Sky Sports 3: Today: Soccer AM, from Barn. Tomorrow: Soccer Extre, from Barn.	WELCOME TO WHITE HART LANE
RADIO: BBC Radio 5 Live: Today: Live commentary in Sport on 5, from 1pm. Tomorrow: Live commentary on Leads v West Ham in Trevor Brooking's Sunday Sport, from 1pm.	Jon Marine

Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

keitening ... ushden & Diamonds ybridge nborough (44) Ayr v Airdne (45) Dundee v Grenock Monon (46) Falker v Raith (47) Partick v St Mirten (48) Stirling v Hamilton Second division (49) Clyde v Inverness CT Third division Initio division:

(--) Aluon v Cowdenbeath

(--) Arbroath v Allos

(--) East Stirling v Berwick

(--) Queen's Park v Dumbarton

(--) Ross County v Montrose DR MARTENS LEAGUE: Premier division: Bath
v Nuneaton, Cambridge City v Gresley; Crewley v
Burton Alborn: Forest Greon v Atherstone.
Hastings v Bromsgrove, Yings Lyrin v Dorchester, Merthyr v Ashlord, Rothwell v St
Leonards, Salisbury v Wolcenter City;
Sringbourne v Gloucester, Tamucritr v
Whalesowen Middland division: Bodworth v
Whisbech Town, Bilston v Brackley Town Bislenall
v Statitord, Corby v Shepshed D Excent No
Stouthodge, Grantham v Solhhull Boro, Moor
Green v Hindley United, RC Warwey; v Reddicts,
Sultion Coldried Town v Raundor 1 v S Rughr, v
Paget R Southern division: Chelmstord v
Inbivibridge, Cinderford v Fisher London,
Cremosster Town v Havant, Dartford v Clevedon,
Margala v Farcham, Newport AFC v Wartentooville,
Conbidge Angels v Niewport (IoWi), Vicistansuper-Maile v Erith and Behedero Weymouth v
Baldock, Without V Bashley

LEAGUE OF WALES: Cemaes Ymys Mon v
Welshpool (2 30), Rhyl v Porthmadog (2,50)
SMIRNOET HISH LEAGUE: Premier division;
Ards v Portadown, Glenavon v Colerance
Geniovan v Ballymena, Lindeld v Chasdets,
Ornagh v Cithonville
FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE Premier

finisher Desmis St Permet's Ath (7,30), billenton vicinished

in Linear Desmis St Permet's Ath (7,30), billenton v DR MARTENS LEAGUE, Premier division: Bath

FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Dem, v Si Patrick's Ath (7:30), Fulkenny v Shelbourne (7:30)

TOMORROW FA Carling Premiership Leeds v West Ham (4 0) Nationwide League West Bromwich v Birmingham (1.0) Bell's Scottish League Hearts v Kilmamock (2 0) FAI HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premie



GOLF: FORTUNE FAVOURS OLDEST NOVICE ON TOUR

Nelson helps to tee off career of caddie

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN SOTOGRANDE

SIMON JOHNSON permitted himself a slight smile. His second round as a professional caddie had gone well. He had not forgotten to rake a bunker or wipe clean an iron. His yardages, written in neat pencil in a small notebook, which also contained a diagram of each hole, were clear and precise. He had spoken when he was spoken to. read the lines of the putts and made sure he put the golf bag down on the side of the green nearest to the

Now, the 44-year-old was less of a novice in the black art of caddying than he had been four days earlier when, on leave from his job as secretary at Stinchcombe Hill golf club in Gloucestershire, he had been searching for a player to caddie for in the European tour qualifying school in southern Spain. He had flown down to Malaga on a cheap ticket without

TOM WATSON, winner of eight

major championships, is 48 years

old but, yesterday in the second

round of the Dunlop Phoenix Tournament in Miyazaki, Japan,

the American hit a shot that he

claimed he would have been inca-

pable of playing ten years ago (Patricia Davies writes). "It made the round pleasurable," Watson.

who recorded a round of 65, six

under par, to move into the lead on

The shot in question was with an eight-iron and it set up Watson's

second birdie of the day, at the 5th, a 390-yard par-four. "I hit a beautiful drive," Watson said, "but

it was in the little ravine that

crosses the fairway, on a very

severe downslope in a shallow

divot. I had 135 yards to the pin and

I hit it six feet from the hole. It was

a wonderful shot and I loved

playing it."
Yesterday. Watson, who won five

work, hoping he would find a golfer needing a caddie.

Looking for an employer like this is known among caddies as roasting, as in standing around in the sun, roasting. Some caddles take months to find a bag; it took Johnson only a matter of minutes. "I saw this man climbing into his car and asked him for a lift to the San Roque golf course." Johnson said. "He asked me what I did and I said I was a caddie looking for a player. He grinned and said it was my lucky day because he was a player looking for a caddie. He is staying two doors down from me in the same hotel." It turned out that the man was Brian Nelson, who won the event three years ago.

It seems that fortune favours not only the brave but also the novice. Nelson, a 31-year-old Texan who had entered his first competitive tournament aged six, began shaki-

from 1977 to 1983, was also indebted

to the sharp eyes of Bruce Ed-

wards, his caddie, who noticed that

the reason his boss was not hitting

the driver too well during his

warm-up was that he was standing

too open at address. The result was

a round of eight birdies and two

bogeys, one of them as the rain

started to teem down at the short

However, a birdie four at the

last, where Watson chipped to

three feet and jabbed the putt

Jumbo Ozaki, champion for the past three years, is in sixth place,

on 139, four behind his old rival.

Craig Parry, the Australian who is

the Japan Open champion, is

second, a shot behind Watson.

best-placed on 142, level par.

home, lifted the gloom.

three years, what with getting a divorce and one thing and another, and the routines of competitive golf took some rediscovering. Some of that rustiness began to disappear at Guadalmina in the

ly with a 74 at San Roque. It

contained one double-bogey but as

it was his first competitive round

for months, he was not too con-

cerned. He had hardly played for

second round yesterday. He had putts for a birdie at three of the first four holes and finished with a 71, to be one over par overall, seven strokes behind Adam Tillman, the leader. Johnson was pleased at what he was seeing. "Brian was hitting the ball better than he was at the start of the week, "he said. "If he keeps improving like this he is going to be all right."

Johnson added: "I did a bit of caddying for Stewart Little on the west region and one thing that he told me was never ever say 'hard luck to him. The game is about skill, not luck. It is best to keep calm. You don't hug after a birdie nor do you burst into tears after a bogey. The hardest thing is the anguish at seeing putts slip by. Then there is keeping your player dry, getting the brolly up and

Heavy rain in Spain fell on Thursday night and caused play to be abandoned at San Roque yesterday before a ball had been struck. The second round at San Roque will be played today, while the players at Guadalmina, having completed their second rounds. have a day off The competition will Wednesday instead of

Johnson thought Nelson might need him on the practice ground or the putting green. Brian has a vertebra missing in his back and he can't practice for long because he gets tired. He putts with his left hand below his right because that puts less pressure on him. But I had better go and find him."

The European Ryder Cup quar-Suddenly lunch was over. It was tet was struggling, with José María Olazábal and Darren Clarke the time for the newest caddie on the Costa del Sol - and one of the oldest — to get back to work.

Davies enables Archer to take a bow

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FROM MELWEBB IN LA MANGA

THEY should have been leaping, exultant, into the air: but they were much too tired for such celebratory shenanigans. Instead, they sat looking at each other, still slightly dazed, still breaking into broad smiles that kept returning, unbidden, to their lips; still not quite believing it. That's what victory in *The Times* Mees-Pierson Corporate Golf Challenge does to people.

By the time this missive lands on the breakfast tables of Britain this morning, the four men who took Archer Leisure, nationwide operators of health and fitness clubs, to success in the national final of the Challenge here yester-



day will, in all probability, have started to come to terms with the measure of their triumph. It is something that they will not want to let go for a while because, in two days of draining pressure, they climbed through the foothills of achievement and reached the

pinnacle of their sporting lives.
They were still finding it difficult to wipe the grins off their faces as they walked into the gala dinner that brought the 1997 Challenge to a festive close. A long night of surrender into the strong arms of Bacchus was no less than they deserved and every man-jack of their 52 rivals was waiting his turn to help them to

For the second day the Archer performance was one of solidity in their game and solidarity in their common purpose. A score of 73 Stableford points gave them a total of 154, four ahead of Derry Landscapes, who produced the highest score of the day, 78 points, with AGF Irish Life Holdings a further two points astern.

Chris Gotla, Archer's twohandicap captain, again led his colleagues, Steve Davies, Marke



Toast of La Manga: from left, Gotla, the captain, Davies, Taylor and Allen after Archer's victory in the Challenge

Allen and Paul Taylor, with quiet authority, but the real hero was Davies. Up all night with severe gastric problems, he was still not certain 90 minutes before the team's tee-time that he would be able to play, but a sympathetic

local doctor was able to provide a nostrum to get Davies on to the golf course and keep him there. By the end Davies was a wan shadow of the man who had

played such an important part in

lead on the first day. But he still did his bit; nobody, most of all his team-mates, would have blamed him had he taken to his bed, a place that had played no part in his life on Thursday night. He said that he was glad he had played, and was believed. Nobody's British upper lip was stiffer on this day.

Good golf was made incrementally more difficult than it had been in the first round. Then, the players had only a boisterous wind to hinder them. Now it was joined by rain and more rain that poured from the slate-grey thunderheads that rolled across the Murcian skyline throughout a grumpy, surly sort of a day.

By the time Archer went through the turn, they led Derry

FINAL SCORES

154: Archer Leisure 81, 73 150: Deny Landscapes 72, 78 148: AGF Irish Life Holdings 74, 74 148: Anglo Holt Construction 72, 71: Citibank NA 69, 74; Duracell Batteries 72, 71 142: Shandon Leisure 72, 70

141: West Bromwich Building Society 68, 73 140: Drakes Group 65, 75 139: Ora Electronics 75, 64. Orchard Toys

138: McClure Watters 70, 68 131: Devoriport Management 65, 66 123: Opus 4 Integrated 62, 61

that would have been smaller had Archer not just had a six-point haul on the 9th hole.

It followed a mere two on the tough par-three 8th, so could not have been better timed. The 9th is a handful in the best of conditions, but now it was 600 yards of hard labour directly into the wind. Allen is a powerful chap, but even after a driver, threewood and four-iron he was still 65 yards short of the green. A deft three-quarter pitching-wedge left him with a two-foot putt for a net birdie and three points. Gotla, inevitably, also had a net birdie.

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On the first day the team scored seven points on the 18th. By the time they reached the home tee this time they had already won. The celebrations, although they did not know it at the time, could begin. It was a fine performance by anybody's standards; the end of a long, winding and highly successful road for the Challenge

Watson's repertoire

improving with age

Leeds hunt Goodway

■ RUGBY LEAGUE: Leeds Rhinos are expected early next week to announce the appointment of Andy Goodway, the Great Britain coach, as their head coach in succession to Dean Bell, who stepped down last month to become head of youth development. Goodway, who coached Oldham Bears and Paris Saint-Germain last season before Britain's 2-1 series defeat by Australia, also hopes to continue his international role. His contract with Britain runs until the World Cup in Australasia next year. Goodway is believed to be considering the Leeds offer this weekend.

Bovill given new chance

■ CRICKET: James Bovill, 26, the fast bowler released by Hampshire at the end of last season because he had a stress fracture in his spine, has been approached by Sussex. "The fracture has healed." he said. Bovill said that the Sussex cricket manager. Dave Gilbert, thought his problem was a "technical fault" in his action that could be corrected.

England on target

SHOOTING: Ian Potts and Chris Hector, both former British champions, gave England a good start in the Commonwealth shooting championships in Malaysia, winning the air rifle pairs gold medal yesterday. Hector scored

Tigers to face Bullets

■ BASKETBALL: Thames Valley Tigers have drawn Birmingham Bullets, unbeaten in the league, in the semifinals of the Sainsbury's Classic Cola National Cup. SEMI-FINALS: Themes Valley Tigers v Samangham Bullots (1st leg Dec 10, 2nd leg Dec 17) Conton Toward v Leidester Riders (1st leg Dec 11, 2nd leg Dec 18)

Male thwarts Gooding

■ REAL TENNIS: Mike Gooding, the defending champion, went out of the British Land British Open at Queen's Club yesterday, losing to James Male in four sets. In the semifinals tomorrow. Male faces Chris Bray while Rob Fahey, the No I seed, plays Wayne Davies, a fellow Australian.

SNOOKER

Hendry eager for return to grand stage

STEPHEN HENDRY, who has been less than impressive during the opening two rounds of the Liverpool Victoria United Kingdom Championship, is convinced that the arrival of the television cameras will coincide with his return to top form (Phil Yates writes).

The Scot takes on Anthony Hamilton at Preston Guild Hall today for a place in the quarter-finals and believes that, in a familiar environment, his game will blossom. "The big stage is where I

thrive," Hendry in search of his fourth successive UK title, said. There is absolutely no doubt in my mind I've done the hard work by getting through the first couple of matches. I'll play well from here on in." In common with Hendry.

Ronnie O'Sullivan has been subdued so far, but the 1993 UK champion would appear to be the most likely finalist to emerge from a depleted bot-tom half of the draw. If O'Sullivan overcomes Gary Wilkinson as expected, his quarter-final opposition will be provided by Gary Ponting or Gerard Greene.

Ponting, who defeated John Higgins in the last 64, and Greene, a 9-2 winner against Steve Davis, are making their debuts in the last 16 of a leading tournament, as is Martin Dziewialtowski, from

Second Test match

PERTH (second day of five) Australia, with so first-immigs wickets in hand, are 18 runs ahead of New Zealand NEW ZEALAND: First Innings 217 (C D McMillan 54, C L Carns 52, S K Warne 4-83)

AUSTRALIA: First Innings **MA Taylor that O'Connor M T G Bloot c O'Connor b Cams G S Blevet c Asite b O'Connor M E Waugh c Parore b Dout S R Waugh not cut 1 A Heay not out Editas (b 2, b 3 nb 4)

Total (4 wkts) A T Ponting P R Reiffel, S K Warne, M S Kasprowcz and S Cook to bat FALL OF WICKETS 1-3, 2-52, 3-71 4-224 BOWLING Doug 14-2-49-1, O'Cormor 17-3-60-2, Carms 13-6-35-1, Vetton 16-6-39-0; Allott 12-2-47-0 Umpres: O Hac (Australia) and G Sharp (England)

First Test match

India v Sti Lanka MOHALI (fract cay of five: India, with six last-arrings arosets in nand, are 76 nas behand St. Larva SRI LANKA: Fost Innings 369 M S Atabath 108 S T Jayasuma 53 J Smath 4-92, A Kunniba 4-82),

Kurunba 4-88),
INDIAL First transport
IN Fill Monga of Murauffactor 57
IN Sischer not but
IS Signer of Ramaning a bilayasunya 34
IS Fill Transport 52
Is Jayasunya 22
Michael American 23
Sis Grandus not but
IS Communication 23

SCGarguerator Ecras (SCB 52 r# 2, #2) Total (4 edes) 293
A number 2 Shiptin R K Charbon, 4 hunstelled 5 Monethy to bot 54LL OF WINGETS 1426, 2-214, 3-259, 4-274

C274

BOMUNS Vaas 19-T-42-0, Site Sike 17-3-45-0, Dramissere 25-9-43-0: Murain-haran 51-9-50: Layasunya 30-12-99-2 Umpures, Situation (Mest Indeed and Si Verkatangman vindia SHEFFIELD SHEELD decord day of lour Sydney. New South Wales 108 and and 80-0 ML I Store 41 to did. Western Australia, 351 (R.1 Campber 177 O.R. Martyn 90, A. Shuar 7-76.

BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION NEW New 196 190 Financia Protection 93 Despite 87 505 Houseon 127 First 197 507 Houseon 127 First 197 197 Houseon 127 First 197 House 33 Process 29 Obsargo 25, San arrest 197 Utah 95

LINI-BALL TROPHY: Derby Storm Lacester Riders 91

SAINSBURY'S CLASSIC COLA NAT-IONAL CUP: Quarter-final: London Towers

AS Homa 2 Udinese 1 (Homa win 4-3 on agg)
FRENCH LEAGUE: Strasbourg 2 Mersalies 0: Monaco 3 Paris Sant-Germain 0; Auterra 3 Montpelier 1.
ARGENTINIAN LEAGUE: Estudientes 3 Girmasa Juniors 0 Independente 1; Raieng 1 Girmasa Le Plata 1: Platense 0 Roserio Central 0; Girmasa y Tiro 2 Husean 4; San Lorenco 4 Colon 1. Newell's 2 Lanus 4; Union 1 Español 1. Velez Sansfield 1 River Plate 1.

FOOTBALL.

FOR THE RECORD

Thursday's lete results AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Queens Park Rangers 3 Swindon

PONTIN'S LEAGUE: Cup: Group three: Postponed: Notis County v Leicester (TALIAN CUP: Third round, second leg: AS Roma 2 Udnese 1 (Roma win 4-3 on

Franco (Par) 68, 71, 140: S Maruyama 72, 68: H Tanaka 67, 73, 141: N Ozaki 71, 70; K Yokoo 71, 70; K Tomon 71, 70; P McWhinney (Aus) 70, 71; G Sato 67, 74.

McWhimey (Aus) 70, 71; G Sato 87, 74.
BANGKOK: Letus International: Leading second-rotind scores: 134: M Curning (US) 99, 65: K Hla Han (Bma) 67,67; K Walker (SI) 86,68; C Plaghol (Thei) 64, 70.
138: L Wen-Teh (Tipe) 69, 67; A Atwal (India) 57,99. 137: E Meetics (US) 70, 67; V Brandan (India) 67, 70.
SATA, Japarc Elleair Ladies Openc. Leading first-round scores (Japan unless stated): 65: Y Hags; 68: I Shiotan, A Yameolca, T Hsiu-feng (Trawen), A Najano, S Sora (S Kores); 69: K Ok-Hee (S Kores), N Noro, Y Monguchi, T Bando, K Fulk.

HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Buffalo 5 Boston 0; Calgary 2 Flonds 1; Jersey 5 NY Islanders 1; Plusburgh 2 Ottews 0; San Jose 3 Philadelpha 0; Edmonton 3 ST Louis 0; Los Angeles 4 Chicago 3; Vancouver 4 Phoens 2 rnoena. 2 EXPRESS CUP: Cerdif Devils 3 Basingstoke Bison 6.

REAL TENNIS CUEEN'S CLUB: British Land British Open (GB unless stated): Men: Second round: C Bray bt A Lyons 6-1, 6-3, 6-5 Cuarter-finals: R Fahey (Aus) bt N Wood 6-5, 6-3, 6-2 C Bray bt J Snow 2-8, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3, 8-5

TOUR MATCH: Sale 14 Tonga XV 26. CLUB MATCHES: Boroughmur 29 Kirk caldy 18; Kirmarrock 8 Ayr 3 (abandones after 50mm, adverse weather conditions) after Schm., acherse weather conditional
WALES SOLIAD (to play New Zealand, at
Wembley on November 29; K Mongan
(Pontypindd): G Wyett (Pontypindd): N
Watker (Cardri): G Thomas (Bondgend). D
James (Pontypindd): S Gibbs (Swanzee): L
Devies (Cardri). A Bathaman (Richmond): A
Thomas (Swanzee): N Jeritins (Pontypindd): P John (Pontypindd): R Howley
(Cardri): C Loeder (Swanzee): S John
(Cardri): C Wathony (Swanzee): S John
(Cardri): B Williams (Richmond). J Humphonys (Cardri): M Voyle (Lianelli). C
Stephens (Bridgend): G Llewellyn (Harlequins): R Appleyerd (Swanzee): M Williams Control (New York)

Champlonship: Men's Air Rittle (Pairs);
Gold: England (I. Potts, C. Hector) 1164
points; Silwer: South Africa (H. Seuer, P.
Clinton) 1157; Bronzer Mateysza (A. Mutarib.
Rezek, A. Zelcaria) 1155.
Men's Trup (Tearri): Gold: England (M.
Iddon, D. Kirk) 180; points; Silver: Weles (R.
W. Dawkes, A. Megglaon): 165; Bronzes:
Australia (G. Mark, N. Padulle): 185.
Men's 50m Free Pistol (Pairs): Gold: India.
(S. Kurner, V. Singh): 1080 points; Silver:
Australia (D. Ropers, S. Sipoly): 1076;
Bronzes: England (N. Beades, W. Hill): 1059.
Women's Sports Pistol (Pairs): Gold:
Australia (K. Hichoock, L. Ryan): 1127 points;
Silver: South Africa (H. Levy, P. V. Wilden):
1126; Bronzes: England (C. Page, L.
Elsworth): 1121.
Women's South Scott, Rittle, 60 prone Esworth 1121.

Women's 50m Sport Rifle, 60 prons
(Pairs): Gold: South Africa (P Realins, C
Porgleten) 1162 points; Silver: Englend (S
Norman, J Howderl) 1160 (won on count
back of the last 10 shots), Bronze: Australia (K Fraser, D Lowe) 1160.

SHOOTING

KUALA LUMPUR, Mai

SKIING

PARK CTY, Useh: World Cup: Merr. Glent station: 1. H Maler (Austria) 2min 43.98eec; 2. K Aamodt (Nor) 2-45.79: 3. T Grandi (Carr) 2-46.31, 4. S Eberharter (Austria) 2-46.57: 5. C Mayer (Austria) 2-46.72: 6, J Strobl (Austria) 2-48.84

TENNIS NEW YORK: Chase Championehip: Quer-ter-finals: M Plarce (Fr) bt M Hingis (Switz) 6-3, 2-6, 7-5; N Tauslei (Fr) bt I Majoli (Cro) 7-8, 7-6.

as -anaes: an inarce (i'r) or an intrige (swez)
6-3, 2-6, 7-5. In Tauzie (fr) bit Majol (Cro)
7-6, 7-6.
HARTFORD, Connecticut: ATP doubles championship (round robm): Yellow group: E Ferriama (SA) and P Galbraith (LS) bit M Knowles (Beh) I) Nestor (Can) 6-2, 6-7.
7-5. Green group: S Lansau (Can) and A O'Bren (LS) bit J Johnson and F Montana (LS) 6-3, 3-6, 6-3
PATTAYA, Thailand: Volvo Women's Open: Third round: O Baraberschikova (Bela) bit N Pati (Las) 6-0, 6-3. Ouester-finals: R Dregomir (Rom) bit C Morania (LS) 6-3, 6-5. Charbridge (Cris 6-3, 6-4; D Van Roust (Beh) bit L Courios (Beh) 6-2, 6-1. Van Roust (Beh) bit L Courios (Beh) 6-2, 6-1. Van Roust (Beh) bit L Round (Behobine) 6-4, 6-2, J Layre (Cambridge-shre) bit W Herbert (Mcdessed 4-6, 6-1, 6-4; A McPherson (Durham and Cleveland) bit M Coombs (Essed) 6-2, 6-1; N Weel Hampshue) bit C Edmondon (Lanca) 6-3, 6-1 Semi-finals: Lettors bit Battes 6-4, 6-4; Weel bit McPherson 6-2, 6-2, Women: Custrer-finals: J Patin (Sussed) bit Erbova (Cr) 6-2, 6-2; L Petens (Durham and Cleveland) bit N Woodhouse (Norfoll), 6-3, 6-0; J Lutrova (Rug) in J White (Northerits) 6-0, 6-1; L Latiner (Watertolorite) bit Z Golopencza (Hun) 6-2, 6-4 Sent-finals: Pullin bit Perkins 6-3, 6-3, Lutrova bit Letimer 6-4, 6-2

BOXING

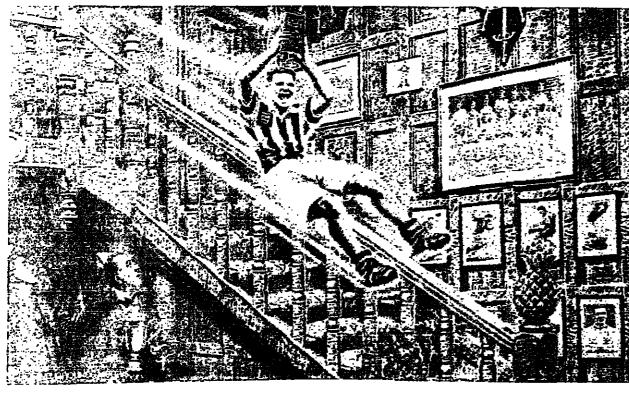
Lewis can rise to challenge of Guerault

ANY bout involving Ady Lewis, of Bury, virtually guarantees non-stop action and excitement (Srikumar Sen writes). The diminutive flyweight, who at 4ft 102 in is Britain's smallest champion, should not disappoint those who make the trip to Bowlers Leisure Centre, Manchester. tonight to see him challenge David Guerault, of France, for the European title.

Lewis has a tough job, for not only is Guerault, 24, technically capable of dealing with the British and Commonwealth champion, but with a height advantage of eight inches he could pose difficult tactical problems for the

challenger. The Frenchman has impressed in all his six bouts. particularly when knocking out Jesper Jensen, of Denmark, who had an unbeaten record of 22 contests. After being floored in the first round. Guerault used his height and reach to avoid the Dane's punches and knocked him out in the tenth round.

For Lewis, Guerault could pose similar problems to the towering Peter Culshaw, of Liverpool. Lewis eventually wore Culshaw down with body punches and even though the champion is a southpaw, he could still be vulnerable to a sustained close range assault. Lewis can be expected to win a hard contest



TRY NEW PLANTERS



By rights, you'll soon be singing their praises from the rooftops.

ike a bow

lead on the first day. But he at did his hit notwelly, most of all team-mates, would have blame him had he taken to his het all the heat had played no man. tim had he taken to he bed; that that had played no para her life on Thursday night he cand that he was clad he be and was believed. played, and was believed Body British upper lip

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FINAL SCORES

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> BOXING Lewis cann to challen of Gueran



Alan Lee charts a British duo's improbable quest for a world championship in the Network Q RAC Rally

McRae fired by driving ambition

olin McRae prepared for his bid to regain the world rallying championship in the hair-raising manner that suits him best. Last weekend, while logic counselled caution and self-protection, he gave himself up to the intoxication of speed and hurled a moto-cross bike around a challenging

course in Wales. Sober sporting coaches, in-tent on the conventions of rest and well-being, would be horrified, but the psychologists might understand. To McRae, power and peril are not just an unavoidable part of the day job but his possessive partners in life, his liberation.

at home, in his apartment in Monte Carlo; and fretted about the improbable mission that awaits him when the Network Q RAC Rally begins in Cheltenham at dawn tomorrow. But that would not have been his

style. Relaxation comes on wheels or, by way of a change on skis, on a raft or in a free-fail parachute. Take away speed and danger and you take the champion out of the

This, then, is a singular character in a singu-

Rallying creeps up on the self. It was good information. British consciousness once a year. It is a sport about which a few know everything and the great majority know nothing at all but, such is the clamour presently surrounding McRae, many more may boast a working knowledge come next Tuesday.

devil yet tacitum Scot, is precarious. Despite winning the two most recent events in the world championship, McRae, 29, arrives at this final rally of the season needing not only a victory for himself but a finish outside the first six for Tommi Makinen, the Finn who leads the standings. If this was to occur, the pair would finish level on points and McRae, whose father, Jimmy, and brother, Alister, will be among those driving against him, would be champion on the tie-break of win-

The odds are stacked in Makinen's favour but it is. nevertheless, the kind of duel that is the oxygen of any sport striving for its share of attention. The factor of McRae driving "at home" adds to the anticipation and Cheltenham, where the rally will now be staged for three years, is

rubbing its hands. Ken Jennings, head of tourism in the town, estimates that

the rally will fill between 15,000 and 20,000 hotel beds

was £10 million over three years and I can now well believe it."

He could, of course, have sat

'He has the ability to find that extra five or ten seconds when

he needs it' sport.

of a world title. The position, for this dare-

over the coming days. "We are crowbarring people in right across the county," he said. My office is still taking calls from people seeking beds. When Chester lost the rally to us they said the potential loss

More than 200 drivers entered the rally, the majority ambitious part-timers. They come from 24 countries and from backgrounds as diverse as farming the law and a Jamaican businesshouse The attention of the masses will. however, be focused on just McRae and the Mitsubishi of

Makinen. Inside each vehicle, seen but never heard, acknowledged but unconsidered, will sit a codriver. Every leading driver has his back-up group of technicians and

mechanics. marketing and public relations types, but nobody becomes a top driver with out a slick, skilful and unflappable co-driver. If you want to

know about McRae, I was assured, Nicky Grist will tell you more than the man him-

While the main man indulged a queue of cameramen and journalists on a muddy, media presentation around the fields of Oxfordshire, Grist relaxed in the Subaru bus and spoke of the burgeoning relationship that has reached the threshold Colin is not like other

people," he said, "He is pretty young for this game and has the special talent to make the job seem easy. You will never find him dripping in sweat at the end of a stage because it isn't a strain to him, yet he has the ability to find that extra five or ten-seconds when he

rist, 36, joined McRae this season Tafter previously working with Juha Kankkunen. It's like a second marriage for us both," he said. ship and I would like to think we'll become best triends. It is certainly essential to get along well, because we spend 16 hours a day in each other's company, and you need total respect, total trust. My life is in his hands but then his is in

mine, too. "As we are fellow Celts, the banter is superb. People find it hard to grasp that it doesn't get tense in our car. We



McRae test driving his Subaru in a rapid blur of colour. "He has the special talent to make the job seem easy," Colin Grist, his co-driver says. "You will never find him dripping in sweat:

actually laugh and joke a lot. There is the odd quick explosion between us, because we are only human, but we have not had a major row all

This is a still more remarkable rapport once it is appreciated that the pair have been in the odd scrape or two. "It is a fine line in this game and one small mistake can cost you everything. In Monte Carlo. we hit a patch of ice and wrapped the car round a tree. Then in Indonesia, where we had a comfortable lead, one

This week the pair have been on reconnaissance, driving each of the 26 stages at least twice in a practice car. "First time round, Colin describes to me how he wants to drive it, how he sees the own shorthand," Grist said.

lines of a corner or the shape of a hill, and I take it down it my On the second practice run, Grist calls out the instructions

from a notebook that has expanded at the rate of a page to each kilometre, McRae responds and the pace-notes, as they are called, are finetuned. "That information is worth perhaps 25 per cent of

"Fitness is a very big thing for us. We have a personal trainer and we fly our road bikes and mountain bikes around the world with us. We make time to train, even when it's tight. Usually, we'll cycle about 150 miles in the build-up to an event."

fitness rather than thrills. "Maybe I am the sensible one. Rallying is the be-all-and-endall to me and I don't have such a need to drive my mountain bike downhill as fast as it will go." That, however, is the compulsion that sets McRae apart and may yet bring the world championship back to

Rally views, page 49



RUGBY UNION Kick-off 3.0 unless stated Lloyds and TSB internati England v New Zeeland (at Old Traiford, 2.0)

(at Parc des Princes, 2.45). Chaltenham & Gloucester Cup

international matches

Group B London Irish v Orreil (2.30 Group C

London Scottish v Cambridge Univ (12.0) Jewson Laague

Harrogate v Otley (2.15)
Leeds v Rugby
London Welsh v Newbury (2.15)
Mortey v Lydney
Nottingham v Liverpool St Helens

m/Soffmul (2.30)

Chattenhern v Ciffton (2:30)
Esher v Havent (2:30)
Henlay v Carnberley (2:0)
Met Police v Tabard
Plymouth v Berking (2:30)
Reductin v North Waishern (2:30)
Weston-super-Mare v Bridgweter

NORTH: First division: Tynedale v Don-caster, Wigton v Widnes. Weish League First division Aberators v Landovery (2.0)
Abertillery v Pontypool (2.0)
Bonymaen v South Wates Police (2.0)
Cross Keys v Cemphilly (2.0)
Massleg v Durwent (2.0)
Monthy v Rummy (2.0)
Treorchy v Newbridge (2.0)
Carditi Inst v Blackwood (2.0):

SWALEC CUP: Third round: Abercern v
Bleengew; Abercern v
Bleengew; Abercern v
Abercern v
Abercern v
Beddeu v
Belde: Bedwes v
Beddeu v
Belde: Bedwes v
Berdeu v
Breen:
B

AIB League
First division
Ballymens v Dolphin (2.30)
Constitution v Terenurs (2.30)

Second division
Sective Rangers v Sundays Well (2 30)
Succeneers v DLSP (2 30)
Galweglane v Wenderers (2 30)
Monistiown v Grystones (2 30)
UCC v Deny (2 30)

POOTBALL WELSH CUP: Third round: Briton Ferry v Inler Cable Tel; Caemerfon v Cefn Druids; Carmerthen Town v By; Cornishs Cusy Normads v Goytne: First Town v Bangor City; Haverfortweat County v Estow Vale; Holy-head Hotspur v Cembran; Knighton v Corrwy, Lex X1 v Barry, Liarrwern v Trehams; Newtonin v Treowern Stars, Porthicawi Town v Abarystwyth; Ton Pentre v Mold; This v Ruthin, University Wales Cardill v Caersius.
PRESS AND JOURNAL HIGHLAND LEAGUE: Brora v Deverormale; Budge Thiefle v Rothes; Clochnacuddin v Naim County, Cove v Lossiemouth; Elgin v Keltt, Praserburgh v Forras Mechanics, Hurity v Fort William; Peterhead v Wick Academy.

RUGBY LEAGUE

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Askarn v Woolston (2:30); Dudiey Hill v Leigh Miners (2:30); Look Lane v Haworth (2:0); Mayfield v Beverley (2:0); Oldham St Annes v Waleny Cantral (2:0); Wigan St Patrick's v Sacrdieworth (2:0); Postponned: Egremont v Wigan St Patrick's; West Hull v Saddleworth. First division: Test Leeds v Eastmoor (2:0); Legh East v Custon (2:0); Millord v Blackbrook (2:30); Redhill v Millorn (2:30); Stew Dress Thomhill (2:0); North V Molorgeen (2:0). Postponed: Burrow Island v Eastmoor. Second division: Hull Dockers v Crossfields (2:0); London Studens v Crossfields (2:0); London Studens v Dockworth (2:0); Normenton v Dewsbury Moor (2:0); York Acom v Eccles (2:0); Postponed: Hull Dockers v Featherstone Ametica. RUGBY LEAGUE

HOCKEY DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE MIDLAND LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloowich v Khelsa; Coversty and North Wennet: v North Stational; Hamplon-in-Arden v Otton and West Wennet, Harborne v Bloesomheld; North Notis v Notlingham: Northwestern Seint v Feshbasten.

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND'S FIXTURES

Rhydding: Norion v Southport: Shelfield Benkers v Swahvelt; Timperley v Durham University Swahvelt; Timperley v Durham University.

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Cambridge City v Behop's Storiford; Colchester v Sudbury; Ipsinch v Crestyc. Lution Town v Cladon. Pater-borough T v Cambridge Univ Primiter division B: Iposwich and E Suffible v St Nest Norwich City v Bury St Edmunds; O Southerdian v Bedford; Redbridge and Iflord v West Herts; Romfond v Daseham Est, SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchoriers v Gore Court; Chufester v Winchester, Eastcole v Beokenham; Hems Bay v Mexicentheset, High Wycombe v Boumemouth; Old Whightsuns v Richmond; Purley v Fareham; Ramgafha v Tunbodge Weets, Wintbedon v Trojens; Woting v City Cf Porsshouth Midderberks/Bucks and Ozon; Astriord v Bracknell; Famham Common v Old Kingstonsers; Hayes v West Hampotead; Lions v Wiolangham; Hardow v Newbury, Mitton Keynes v Hondon. P H C Chaswick, Voly Ol Odorc; Proentx v Genards Cross; Richings Remissers v Worting; Midderbon-Borgnor v Blackheath, Horsham v Tulse Hill Manden Russets v Worting; Midderbon-Borgnor v Burt Astr, Mid Susset v Newtraver; Old Borterians v Lloyd Berik, Old Holcon-belens v Easthoumer Clat Widermanonians v

Russets v Wortring: Meddeton-Borgnor v Burnt Asir, Med Sussets v Newfrener; Old Bordentans v Lloyd Bertic, Old Holcom-belans v Eastbourne: Old Wisternsorians v Sevenosis. Hampstare: Bosingstoke v Andower Blandford v Hasterner; Cheam v Epoorn; Dutwich v Barnes; Goan v Spencer Old Walcounters v Camberloy; Old Cantelighans v Obston; Chade v Old Georgens; Ponsmouth v London Univ

WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH WALES LIBEAGUE: Premier division: Bath Bucos v Robinsons; Chebenham v Weston-Super-Mare; Clevedon v Bristol Univ: Exoler Univ v Taunton Vale; Swanson v Whitchusch

Whitchuch
WOMEN'S NATIONAL LEAGUE: Pramier
division: Highrown v Citton (al Formby CC,
noon): Ipswich v Stough (at Tuddenham Rd,
noon): Oton v Oenozete (2.0); Trojers v
Sutton Coldited (1.30) First division:
Brastinal v Bedams (noon): Chelmistord v
Centerbury (2.15): Leacaster v Brackmel
(12.30): Loughborough Students v Wimbledon (2.30): Second division: Bueharts v
Ealing (12.30). Poyraton v Loughborough
(1.0); Sherwood v Aldridg (noon): Wolung
v West Wimey (2.0)
Besterball LEAGUESS: East: Activat v

v Wes Winney (2 0)
REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Ashlord v
Sevenoshs, Derehem v Cambs C;
Horleston v Ipswicht; St Albans v BSE.
Midlandis: Belper v Hampton; Kettening v
Holwork; Leinester v Kith Staffs, Luton v
Crimson R. North: Blackburn v York, Liv
Setton v Chester: Welton v Leytand M;
Winnington Pk v Sheffield South: Hamp-stead v Winchmore Hill; Horsham v Sotton:
Reading v Hondon; Take Hill v Matter-head, Winchester v Dulwich: West; Bourne-mouth v St Austell, Chellerhem v Emouth, Exeter v Redland. Leominister v T Valle; Yato v Colveil
WOMEN'S SCOTTISH UNDER-21 DIS-

OTHER SPORT BADMINTON: Scottish Open (at Glasgow)

BADMINTON: Scottish Open (at Glessgow)
BASKETBALL: Budweiser Luegue: Crystal
Palsce v Newcastle Eggles (7 30); Worthing
Bears v Marichaster Gerns (8 0) Unit-ball
Trophy: Wattord Royals v Birmingham
Bulleta (7 30); Thames Valley Tigers v
London Leopards (8 0).
BOXKNG: European Ryweight champlorship: D Guerault (hotder) v A Lown.
(Bury) (at Bowlers, Manchester)
ICE HOCKEY: Superleegue: Ayr Scottish
Eagles v Cardiff Devils (6 30); Nottingham
Parithers v Newcastle Cobres (7 0); Beongstoke Bison v Sheffield Steplors (6 30)
SNOOKEP: Liverpool Vistoria UK champ-

Tomorrow RUGBY UNION kick-off 3 () unless stated

Tour match West Hardepool v Tonga XV Group D Blackheath v Richmond (3.0) AIB League First division

HOCKEY NATIONAL LEAGUE: Premier division: Centerbury v Cannock (at Polo Farm, 10); East Grasslead v Beeston (at Sarm Hill, 2.30). Guildford v Doncaster (at KingsManor School, 12.0); Hourislow v Burtord Tigers (at Dukes Meadlows, 2.0). Old Loughtoniens v Teddington (at Chigwell, 2.0). First division: Bluetnats v St Albans (at Hitchin Boys' School, 2.30). Sournalle v Sturport (at king Edward's Cârts' School. Birmingham, 2.30); Romikely v Havami (at Phony Leteure Centre, 1 0); Friebrands v Oxford Hewks (at Longwood. Bristol, 1 0); Gloucester Cay v Subdion (at Prock Courl, 1 30); Herston Magnies v Prock Courl, 1.30; Herston Magnies v Brooklands (at Shortford Heath, 2.0); Hull v Leves (at Danepark Road, 2.0). Loughborough Shudens v Indian Gyminham (at Loughborough Universal, noon; Sheffield v Chemiston (at Abbeydale Park, 2.30); Warnington v Oxford Universal (at Penketh Courty School, 130)

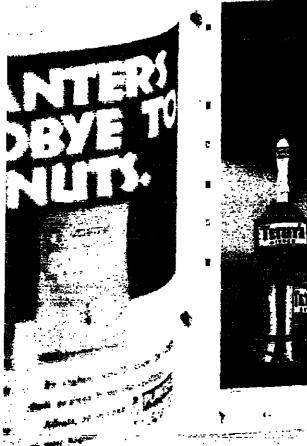
OTHER SPORT OTHER SPORTI

BADMINTON: Scotisch Open (at Glasgow).

BASIGTEBALL: Budwelser League: London Towers v Sheffeld Sharks (6 30). Unl-bad Trophy: Chester Jets v Derby Storm (5 30); Watlord Royals v Worthing Royals (6 30). ICE HOCKEY: Superleague: Sheffeld Steelers v Carolff Devils (6 30); Marchester Storm v Newcastle Cobres (6 0), Bracknet Bees v Naturghern Parthers (6 0).

MOTOR RALLYNIC: Network C RAC Relly (first day: Chebenham-Donnigton-Chebenham).

SNOOKER: Liverpool Victoria UK champ-lonstrep (at Preston)







RUGBY

THE TIMES SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

Or Royal ready to justify support of Pipe's team

RACING CORRESPONDENT

AT POND HOUSE, the Somerset nerve centre of champion jumps trainer Martin Pipe. they like to play their cards close to their chest. After all. loose talk can cost money — in the shape of reduced odds for fancied runners.

However, ever since the bookmakers had the impertinence on Monday to offer 9-2 against Or Royal for the First National Bank Chase, Pond House regulars have filled their boots, with the normal veil of secrecy having been lifted about the feature race at Ascot today. Asked for a word about the chances of last season's Arkle Chase winner yesterday, Pipe was succinct. A word," he said. "Wins".

David Johnson, who paid Fr660,000 (£82,500) for the French import, was more loquacious, but no less confident. "The horse is extremely well. Tony [McCoy] has been down four or live times to school him and he has been brilliant. The rain will be in his favour and there is a lot of confidence behind the horse. There will be some very long faces at Pond House if he gets

"We hope he is a Queen Mother Champion Chase horse, in which case he would need to win. Tony won't hear of him getting beaten," the owner added. Johnson has put his money where his mouth is with a sizeable bet at 9-2.

In a race which has a distinctly lopsided look - with a stone separating the top four horses from the rest of the field - the form book and the way the race will be run suggests the confidence is not mis-

With confirmed front runners such as Jeffeil and Stately



bags of pace, which will suit Or Royal who is sure to be be held up for a late run. When he was beaten over course and distance 11 months ago by Simply Dashing (receiving 3lb), McCoy blamed himself for striking the front too soon.

Simply Dashing, who headed the ante-post market earlier in the week, hails from the inform Tim Easterby yard, but the trainer is on record as saying his stable star is best on good, fast ground. After more than an inch of rain inside the past 72 hours, the going is anything but. Similar ground worries will reduce confidence in the Amanda Perrett-trained Fine Thyne.

Jeffell, winner of the Tripleprint Novices' Chase at

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: AARDWOLF (1.20 Ascot) Next best: Or Royal (2.30 Ascot)

Chris McGrath landed a near 19-:

the Punchestown Festival. came in for significant support yesterday and Arthur Moore's raiders always deserve respect. However, form lines involving Celibate and Flying Instructor (who were further behind Or Royal in the Arkle Chase) suggest Jeffell is inferior to Pipe's runner.

Wild West Wind, the apple of Terry Biddlecombe's eye, looks more of a three-miler and will benefit from this run. while Frazer Island looks outclassed. Redeemvourself. without a run since winning his first race over fences more than a year ago, looks well treated at the weights and hails from Josh Gifford's inform yard. But lack of experience is a big worry.

The main threat to Or Royal is likely to come from Around The Gale, a confirmed mud lover, who will relish conditions underfoot and is in top form for his seasonal reap pearance, "Every drop of rain will help us," David Gandolfo, the trainer of the lightly weighted six-year-old, said yesterday. "He's well and has done a lot of work and I certainly can't grumble about

his weight." However, with Or Royal equally at home on the prevailing ground and Pipe's string in tip-top form, the mood within Pond House is infectious and he can prevail. Away from the gaze of the

television cameras, ali eyes will be on Boardroom Shuffle, who makes his eagerly awaited chasing debut in the Hurst Park Novices' Chase (3.05) in a later race at Ascot. A clear round of jumping should see him win.

Meanwhile, at Aintree (2.45) the form of Noisy Miner's recent Chepstow victory is working out particularly well and he can follow up for David Nicholson.



صكذا من رلامهل

Symbol Of Success leads Aller Moor on his way to victory in the British Aerospace Novices' Handicap Chase at Ascot yesterday

Pridwell profits from positive thinking

By CHRIS McGrath

IT IS, presumably, a measure of the frivolous nature of their pastime that racing people refer to a horse with a resentful attitude to the sport as "a thinker" - a horse, that is, with better things to worry about, with too much sense to waste his energy on a race. Few have been invested with so many intellectual qualities as Pridwell, who all but refused to start on a couple of occasions last autumn. Martin Pipe, his trainer, even has a cartoon of Pridwell as Rodin's Thinker hanging on his loo wall.

At Ascot yesterday, however, came further evidence that he is becoming less and less reflective. Those brave enough to support him to complete a treble in the Coopers & Lybrand Ascot Hurdle will soon be lauding him as thoroughly stupid.

He has in his time finished third in

come off the bridle to win £40,000 in three races this season. The horse he thrashed at Wincanton, Mr Percy. had subsequently emerged to run away with the most competitive hurdle race of the season so far, at Cheltenham last weekend.

Bookmakers were even trying to interest people in quotes for the Champion Hurdle — Coral offers 25-1 - after yesterday's arrogant performance by horse and jockey - Tony McCoy termenting Carl Llewellyn on the industrious Ocean Hawk with long, sympathetic looks as they cruised by in the straight. For all that, yesterday's race was slowly run and Pridwell will never have the pace back at two miles to win a Champion. But he's some machine on easy

"It has sometimes seemed as though he has got too many A levels,"

a Champion Hurdle, and has yet to Pipe said. "But he is really on song now and thoroughly enjoying him-self. I don't know how we've done it. though it could be something to do with the fact that Donna, who looks after him at home, has got married since last season."

McCoy completed a double with a sound tactical τide on Ela Agapi Mou the concluding Punch Bowl Handicap Hurdle, which was run so slowly that one looked in vain for a hearse. Also in form was Norman Williamson, his flair undiminished by the uncharacteristic blunder that caused him such humiliation at Leicester on Monday (when given a 14-day suspension for easing up, to be caught close home).

He plucked the Gerrard Group

Handicap Chase out of the fire on Leotard, who seemed to have lost the initiative to Arctic Kinsman on the home turn. But he was driven out over the last two to beat the grey six lengths, becoming another feather in the cap of Venetia Williams. "Norman said he ran in snatches and nothing was happening at the bend," the trainer said.

Williamson had earlier helped someone else make a better end to the week than he had a beginning, getting Brackenheath home in the Racing Channel Novices' Hurdle for Gardie Grissell. The trainer, after three sleepless nights, has decided not to bother with an appeal against the £500 fine he was given under the "non-triers" rule at Plumpton on Monday — which he considers a slur on his name.

Williamson had replaced Barry Fenton, who fell heavily from Brackenheath at the same meeting and has suffering from a sore back since. No wonder some horses think it all too silly.

ASCOT

12,45 Zaralaska

2.30 FINE THYNE (nap) 3.05 Boardroom Shuffi 3.40 Haile Derring 1.55 Real Estate

Timekeeper's top rating: 1.55 MONARCH'S PURSUIT.

GOING: GOOD, GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES (CHASE COURSE), SOFT (HURDLES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

12.45 HOLLOWAYS GATE NOVICES HURDLE

(£3,501; 2m 110vd) (10 runners) | 11: 511 PURIGN | 10 FURDING | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300 | 1300

1996. RESIST THE FORCE 6-11-5 P Hide (5-1) J Gillard 9 ran

FORM FOCUS

Punkain beal Song Of The Sword II in 8-namer nevice hurdle at Accid (2m 110vd, good) with Eta-Yie-Mou (3th worse off) 32l 6th Belkento beaten a distance 9th of 11 to Queen Of Species in novice of Filar in 1993, but her not run since. Fullyama Creat useful stayer on Pai in 1996, providing France Deformed the filar winning the Beastworgh States at Royal Accid (1m 4t) and 0to theaton Cub at Asystock Perentally top-class recruit to hurdling Zaynai pulled up in nance hurdle at Every (2m 11 10)yd, good to soft). Royal Celluth, fair performer at up to tim on Fila. PUNKAH is best of those with expensive while Zaralaska has reportedly schooled well

BETTING, 5-4 Zaralasta, 2-1 Funzama Crest, 3-1 Funtan, 14-1 Jugatka, 16-1 Betrento, Eta-Yie-Mau, 20-1 others

1.20 GARDNER MERCHANT HANDICAP CHASE

301/12 - COULTOR 322 BF C F.G.S) (3 S Cambot 0 Sterator 19-12-C R Dottwoody 11499-3 DSTRA DOVE 13 (0.5 G) (Derto Lighting Sintertor 8 April 13-13-6 R Powel 123 40 COOL (DAWN 14 (CD.F.G.S) (4th March D Hadder) R Phins 3-10-5 A Thomson 123-44 C COOL (30.G.S) (135 C Semila Demostry) C Storis 6-13-2 Disably 14 (F.G.S) (0 carry) P P Webbr 9-15-6 A Physical A Magaine 2 Long handcap Gerta Deve 9-11 Spot Einen 9-8, Ambect 9-7 Glerot 9-4 SETTING 9-4 Apparent 11-4 Coption, 3-7 Glernet, 4-1 Desira Dave, 16-1 Copt Court

FORM FOCUS

Coulton 2"of 2nd of 5 to Assalom's Lady in grade if handrage chare at Eveler (2m 11 110yd, good to soft). Destra Dove bealen a distance and of 4 to Dange Staty in handrage chase at Sandram (3m 110yd, good to Immi with Aardword (10th wares off) fell (Bernot 77 2nd of 5 to Lovily Angolt in instruction offset at Wingaritin (3m 11 110yd, good) with Cool Dawn (5th being offs 47) 7th AARDWOLF azz leading when falling at Santown tast time and can make amend;

1996. BICHCALLOCH 7-11-4 & Duracody revers # San Lines; 3 con

1.5	55 FII	FTY YEARS OF TIMEFORM AURELIUS DVICES HURDLE (3-Y-0: \$4,902 2m 110yd; (11 n.m.	BBC	1
351	11		A Durancody	110
3C.	131	LEVITICUS 17 (D.G. Mr. S Authorition) Title 11	A P McCov	109
3	1	TOM TALLOR 13 (D.G) (A & Patherston) D. Ellas ath 11-7	P HCCC;	99
30	-	DON'T FOOL LEE DESF (Mrs. & Shalks) P Moorey, 11-3	G Starten	
735	227F	LE DE LERATE 7 (Sampus et Races, 2 0 Salinan 11-)	M A Forzerald	89
77	_	F. Frank 3 F. F. Lines Like States (1984) 11-3	8 Panel	-
ensamense ensamense	4	PEAL ESTATE 35 (BF) (No.) Model: (1) Edvictor (1-3)	A Magaze	80
272		WESLEY'S LAD 47F (3 Williams; D Surchet 11-)	D J Busches	_
7.3	11	SOURD APPEAL 21 (COLG) (2 & J Fider) 5 Page 11-7	A Thereton	112
115	3832	ADDAWITA 11 (E Hougeter) & Statute 10-12	'il Mei artand	87
3::	63	SLENT VALLEY 4 (A) (A) of 5 Corport Mass L Section 10-12	\$ Wymne	80

BETTING: 3.1 Pages 7.2 Monarch & Future, 4.1 Sound Appeal, 9-2 Red Estate, 2-1 Forn Turks, 10-1 Levillous, 1996, LEAR JET (1-) ? Domeschy (3-1) 3 to Josep 7 to t

FORM FOCUS

Monarch's Pursint bear Amage need in 7-namer grade to myang trade at Wethertry (2m, good to timn). Levitacus beat Beryllium 51 in 15-namer incide at Wethertry (2m, good to timn). Levitacus beat Beryllium 51 in 15-namer incide burdle at Stadean (2m, good) with Stadean (2m, good) by the De Librardo left in movice burdle at Windson (2m, good to timn) previously. 111 2nd 49 to the French Faire in movice burdle at Plumoton (2m) good to timn). Papua small performer at up to 174 miles on Flut Read Estate 111 4th of 9 to Sound Appeal tells are performed at Kemblan (2m) good). Wesley's Lad innodezine stager on the Flut Sound Appeal near 4th this Day up in 6-namer movice hundle at Accord (2m 110yd, good) with Read Estate 14th beard off). 11 4th Aquavita 51 2nd of 8 to Supply And Demand in Joy navice hundle at Kembury (2m, 110yd, good). Salent Valley 4th 3nd of 9 to Lord Discord in navice hundle at Methods. (2m, good to soit). MONARCH'S PURSUIT has taken well to hundling and may be able to chercome a penalty

2.30 FIRST NATIONAL BANK GOLD CUP CHASE (Limited handicap: £25,840; 2m 3f 110yd) (11 runners)

Long handicap: Repermyourself 9-13, Monte Scham 9-11 BETTING. 5-2 Simply Destring. 11-4 Or Royal 6-1 Jettell, 8-1 Around The Gale. Frager Island. 10-1 Fine Thyme. Redeemyoursell 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

Simply Dashing best Senor (ii Behmil 151 in 3-numer handicap drase at Wetherby (2m 41 110)d, good to firm) Or Royal 63:41 3rd of 10 to Sparky (ayle in chase at Chelberham (2m 51, good) with Wild West Wind (16lb better of) 201 4th and Stately Horne (1ft better of) 30 6th Stately Horne (14l last of) 3 to Super Tactics in handicap handle at Newbury (2m 41, good) Greenback 81 4th of 6 to Nahramali in handicap handle at Accol (2m 110)d, good), previously 53 8th of 9 to Flying Fiddler in handicap handle at Accol (2m 110)d, good), previously 53 8th of 9 to Flying Fiddler in handicap handle at Accol (2m 51 10)d, good), previously 53 8th of 9 to Flying Fiddler in handicap handle at Kempton (2m 51 110)d, good), previously 32 8th of 6 to tand Ato in grade it nowice chase at Respon (2m 51 110)d, good), previously 32 and 6 for tand Ato in grade it nowice chase at Kempton (2m 41 110)d, good to sort) with Greenback (6th better off) 81 in 3rd. Previously 32 8th of 5 to Call Scot (3m 51 10)d, good to sort) with Greenback (6th better off) 181 3rd. Previously 32 8th off) public to Frazer Island best Pate 8th 8th 11 in 6-more handicap chase at Chepsidin (2m 31 110)d, good). Redeemyouself beat Marison County (31 in 7-numer rowce chase at Newbury (2m 31 10)d, good). Redeemyouself beat Marison County (31 in 7-numer rowce chase at Newbury (2m 31 10)d, good). However, the sort of the sort OR ROYAL proved humself a useful performer test season and car. Keep progressing

3.05 HURST PARK NOVICES CHASE

(£6.808, 2m) (5 runners)

11111 BOARDROOM SHUFFLE 220 (D.F.S.S.) (A Wester) J STIPST E-1112 P Hote 5200-12 CHEFS SONG 24 (BFD.F.G. Mr.: A Device S Dea 1-113 R Dummody 533-31 DOWNLEAVENHEIST & D G.S.) (Y Shore; A Dum F. 1113 D BOARD NUT IS (D.F.S.) (Y F FEBRUER P BLAZE THIS) B PARKET 1115 GOOD-1 GOOD-0 HOTE B (D.F.S.) (Earl Cadegare Meta H Keight S-11-2 J F Tidey 21214- WADE ROAD 256 (D.F.S.) (Earl Cadegare Meta H Keight S-11-2 J F Tidey BETTING: Speci Scardinaria Studie, 5-2 Wade Road, 3-4 Obel o Song 3-4 Sizona Not 15-4 Contessettenda 1998, OH SO RESKY 9-11-3 Photos (3-4) C Sizona 4 ran

FORM FOCUS

Boardroom Shuffle best Mighty Most 215, in 5-namer grade if nonce hundle at Chepidoe (Lm 4: 116,4 good to solt). Cheef's congress and the sold of 4 to Matagy and the sold of the sold process at Easter (2m 3: no sold to solt). Ground Nut best Ambiesco 9: in 5-namer name chase at Easter (2m 3: 110) and to solt). Ground Nut best Ambiesco 9: in 5-namer name chase at Easter (2m 1: 110) and to solt). Water Road 15 4th of 15 to Soldiers (Leader in grade 1 names hundle at Chehenham (2m 1:10) and to firm). CHIEF'S SONG can put his expenence to good use against the smart Boardmoom Shuffle

3.40 LION GATE HANDICAP HURDLE (£5.342 3m) (6 runners)

(20.342 Still) (0 (Unional)

601 4 11112 COUCHANT 28 RF.D.F.G) (Telane Rating) V Fire (-1.0 A P McCey 130

602 01144-0 HABE DERRING 7 (CD.S.B. No. / Robusts (1 (Close 1711-) 2 (Edition (1) 136

903 2003-25 INFLIENCE FEDER 3 (S) (No. 2 Switzery 1 50 4-115 M P Expendi 136

905 2012-1 C.J.F.ON ST. 145 (B RF.C.S.) (No. 6 Fore 4 - 171 M P Commons

905 112221 NAME OF OUR FATHER 14 (F.G. 7 Non. (9 Expend 4 172 A Mayor 112

3 Ayrus 119 Complianation Principle 9-7
BETTING: 9-4 Couchest 3-1 Name Of the Father 7-2 Have Denvis in terms Retter 13-1 Timer Set 8-1 1996 OLYMPIAN 9-10-7 N. A Filipping (14-11), Plants 4 for

FORM FOCUS

Concitant neck and of 5 to Smart for the rest can hardle at Market
Racen 13th, good). Have Demang 12! 7th 6" 12 to Gypan in
hardlean function of Chemican 13th 12 good). Influence Perfor
beaten a distance 5th of 6 to Franching in hardlean martle at Personni 2th 5! good to suff)
previously 29st 2nd of 5 to Intal Force in hardlean martle at Martice (in: 6! good to suff).
Children Sci 71 and of 6 to Franch Sky to notice chase at Westereld (in: 7! cond in him) previously
beat 8th 0f 4 Touch 11th in 6-numer provide chase at Newton Abbot 12th 21 10gd good. Name 0f
Our Father beat Eau De Cologne 29st in 4-numer hardlean hardle at Westerlin 13th 61 good).
previously, 11 3nd of 6 to Fladley Wood in hardlean hardle at Charles 13th 13th 2 good).
Pettaugh 50t 3th of 14 to Hoodwise in hardlean hardle at Charles 13th 13th 2 good.

NAME OF ONE SATER committee to the hardlean and the state at Charles 13th 13th 2 good.

COURSE SPECIALISTS							
TRAINERS 5 Coa M Pape 9 Micholson 1 Bailding 1/1 Tancton-Danes 6 Hubband 1 Hubband	Wirts 17 16 4 5	Parts 16 70 67 18 23 99 21	350 353 259 222 217 194 138	JOCKEYS L aspell A P MicCoy A Friendson L Staggere R Duraccody P Hollay St A Friegratic	%.HET.	Fax 7 1 2 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1 5 1	\$2.3 25.3 15.8 16.9 14.6

Akehurst makes winning start from father's yard

saddled a winner at Lingfield earlier this week with his final runner, got off the mark at the first time of asking since taking over the reins at the Epsom yard when OK Babe won at Wolverhampton yesterday.

Akehurst expressed himself as "absolutely delighted" after winning the BSS as well."
and UK Quality Valves & Pipeline South Equipment Selling Stakes. I know it was with a £4,000 fine after a prolonged

to 8,200 guineas to retain the filly at the subsequent auction.

"She only cost me 1,300 guineas as a yearling at Newmarket so this was quite a jump," he added. "Still, the owners are delighted and my father is very pleased

Southwell racecourse was yesterday hit

<u>and the committee the first of the first of the first of the second of </u>

JOHN AKEHURST, whose father, Reg. only a seller, but you have got to start Jockey Club inquiry concerning breaches somewhere. "he said. Akehurst had to go of its medical provision. Investigations of its medical provision. Investigations into Southwell's medical arrangements have been taking place since the death of Richard Davis in a fall at a National Hunt fixture at the course last year. However this inquiry did not concern the circumstances then, but were concerned with two Jockey Club inspections of the course in August and September of last

1.05 Keep Me In Mind

2.45 River Dawn

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

Racecard number: Sox-figure form (F — left P — polled up: U — instealed nater B — brought down. S — shipped up: R — refused. D — thought down. S — shipped up: R — refused. D — thought horse's raise: D — thought horse's raise: D — thought F — left B — brought R — left B — pool. S — soft, good to soft, which horse's raise: D — thought B — left B

SIS

GOING: GOOD

1.05 TOTE NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE

BBC1 (£10,406; 2m) (9 runners) | 1 | 1212133 BRAMBLEBSRRY 22 (Q.F.S.5) (Nampers Record) Mrs. S Smith 8-11-10 R Soust 122 3 114-1F STORM RUN 7 (F.G.) (Mrs. P Matcheth 7 Nachols 7-11-4 ... T. J Murphy 139 00-3827 STANMORE 25 (6) (Leiszals Boodrisch) C Brooks 5-11-3 ... G Bander 140 500-15 KEEP Mrs. March 10 (F.G.S.) (F 707) R Michael 3-10-13 ... G Mander 5 401-197 MSTER NOVA 1251 (D.S.S.) (FLORE) Mrs. March 10 -10-13 ... R Johnson 6 51-0135 WRNSFORD HLL 35 (F.G.) (Lizz Be Pathershep) Williams 6-10-13 ... R Johnson 6 51-0135 WRNSFORD HLL 35 (F.G.) (Lizz Be Pathershep) Williams 6-10-11 E Husband (3) -1 01-6251 HGLDERS HELL 15 (D.F.S.) (C Whateley) M Macyber 5-10-7 ... R Thomton (3) 119 8 NDS6-3 HAREDOWN CHARAS 11 Waterson 120 Mrs. 3 bitman 7-10-5 R Fathersh 9 GSDPS-R TREMEMORISTO 42 (D.G.) (Masyang D McCale 7-10-3 ... V Statery BETTING 11-6 Storm Pur. 5-1 Assessor Character 1-1 Brantheberry Holders Hill, 10-1 Keep Me In Mard, 14-1 Witerford Hall 25-1 cfreys

1996: NO CORRESPONDING RACE

FORM FOCUS

Brambleberry 8's1 3'd of 9 to Edgemoor Prince in handicap chase at Bangar (2m of 110yd, good). Storm Rain lell in nonce chase at Chellentiam (2m of 110yd, good). Storm Rain lell in nonce chase at Chellentiam (2m of 110yd, good). previously beal Micron 111 in 6-runner nonce handicap chase at Cheltentiam (2m of 110yd, good). Reep Me In Mind 781 5th of 7 to Northern Startight in grade it nonce chase at Cheptow (2m of 110yd, good) to soil). Missian Nova 381 12th of 25 to Squire Silk in nonce chase at Cheptow (2m of 110yd, good to soil). Missian Nova 381 12th of 25 to Squire Silk in nonce handles hundle at Startight (2m of 110yd, good to soil). Which the 191 5th of 8 to Cranica Boulevard in handicap hundle at Startight (2m of 110yd, good) to firm! Handiequan Chorus 21st 3rd of 9 to Wise Kings o nov hosp halfe 0-110 at Newbury (2m 110yd, good). Tremendor to returned to race in handicap hundle at Bangor (2m 11, good).

KEEP ME IN MISSO has score and wall be suited by the solitich ground.

KEEP ME IN MICHO has scope and will be suited by the softish ground

1.35 STANLEY LEISURE CHILDREN IN NEED HANDICAP BURDLE (\$10,406 2m 110yd) (7 numers)

BETTINGS 11-4 Good Vibes, 3-1 Clost-Yo 9-2 Easy Lebonry 6-1 Size Marked, Flying Capie, 8-1 Coldege 14-1 Market.

Nation

1996, TOM BROOK 6-11-0 N Williamson (7-2), J Haward Jakeson 6 ran

FORM FOCUS

Star Market beat Jazartan (il in 7-runner handicap hurdle at Varwet (2m 31 good) Chai-Yo unscaled oder in handicap hurdle at Chellenham (2m 11/br) good) Good Vibes beat Alatary (2 m 6-runner handicap hurdle at Wetherty (2 m good in firm) Easy Listening hard Globe Rouner (3 in 15-runner handicap hurdle at Unbasite (2m, godt); préviously beat Écolled 21 in 7-runner handicap tractile at Hereford (2m 11 good) with Goldrings (11 it) better cit) 111 3m Flying Eagle beat Reacon Flight 24 in 3-runner handicap hurdle at Sandown (2m 1804) good to form) Ahalid 211 6th of 7 to Potter's Gale in handicap hurdle at Chepotam (2m 1804) good to soft)

GOOD VIBES is a progressive sort and won a strong race at Wetherby

NAME OF OUR FATHER seems to thrive on racing and can gain the fourth with of the season 2.10 CROWTHER HOMES BECHER CHASE

(Handicap: £24,694, 3m 3t Grand National course) (12 runners) UNICAL T. 24,094. 3 m. 21 (1878) Walterial COURSE) [12 (1878): 10-11-10. C. Mande

\$50.32. YOUNG HUSTLER 364 (CD.F.G.S.) (5 Marietani 16 T-Gares 10-11-10. C. Mande

\$50.33.2 COURT MELDOY 8 (8,6.5) M. Colume P. Marietani 5 T-Gares 10-11-10. C. Mande

1872.2 SOUNDS \$176006 13 (45.6.5) May D. Marietani 5 T-G. C. R. Johnston

1872.2 YALIANI WARRIOR 13 (6.6.5) P. Selari, M. Marietani 5 T-G. C. R. Johnston

1872.2 YALIANI WARRIOR 13 (6.6.5) P. Selari, M. Marietani 5 T-G. C. Bradder

1872.4 STORALITACOR 21 (86.7) G. Desir 21 Marietani 5 T-G. C. Bradder

1872.4 STORALITACOR 21 (86.7) G. Desir 21 Marietani 15 T-G. C. Bradder

1873.5 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Lon Partnershoff P. Habbs 8-T-G. C. Harrion

1874.5 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Lon Partnershoff P. Habbs 8-T-G. C. Harrion

1874.6 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Lon Partnershoff P. Habbs 8-T-G. C. Harrion

1874.6 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-T-G. R. Thomaton (3)

1874.6 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-T-G. R. Bellamy

1874.7 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-T-G. R. Bellamy

1874.7 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-T-G. R. Bellamy

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1874.7 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-T-G. R. Bellamy

1874.7 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-T-G. R. SAMEE

1874.7 SAMEE 21 (5.6.5) (40 Mat. Longe) T-T-G. R. SAMEE 21 Long handwag: Court Melody 9-11 Sources Strong 9-11, Yalkoot Warner 9-11 Stormenation 9-10, Sar Poles Lely 3-10, Camber 9-9 Cametot kneph 9-8 Europes Boy 9-7 Juliana 9-4, Utanus, Colonges 8-0, Gottless Ser 7-3

BETTRIC 11-4 Scients Strong 5-1 Juliana 6-1 Young Hustlin 7-1 Sambre 6-1 Court Mesons, Storychasta Campilor Kingha Tul-1 others 1996 BITO THE RED 12-10-0 A Delton (9-2) Not M Penetry 8 pp FORM FOCUS:

Young Hustler JiH 2nd of 8 in Into The Red in Angelese elease at Austre (3m 31, good). Court Methody 161 2nd of 5 to Hellerals in amateurs hardcap chase at Wetherby of 17 good). Stornds service of 2m 31, good). Stornds elease of Wetherby (3m 11, good) with Vellant Warnor (3b better off) a declared 4th Sharmarasher 41 4th of 8 to Bertone in handcap chase 4th Sharmarasher 41 4th of 8 to Bertone in handcap chase 4th Sharmarasher 41 4th of 8 to Bertone in handcap chase 4th of 8 to General Crach in handcap chase at Kempton (2m, good). Camablet Kinghi 27 2nd of 35 to Lord Gillene in Grand National here (4m 41 good) with Jallyns Boy (ame terms) 255 8th and Vellant Warnor (3b here off) 641 (10n, Dalyns Boy 3h) 6th off 17 to Bertonet King in Scribish Grand National at Ay: (4m 11, good) with Starmatasher (3b better off) pulled up Justiara fell in handicap chase at Kempton (3m good) premously heaf Gaelic Bive 14th at 9-current revice transicap chase at Accon (3m 1104), good in lami.

CAMPLOT KNIGHT, third in the Grand Mational over these lences, is sure to go well

2.45 EBF NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE

11-1 MOISY MONER 14 (D.F.G.S) (Mrs R Slam) D / 04-2 ERESPRAY 17 (T Hermitops) Mrs S Sratin 5-60-7 RWER-DAWN 14 (Episans Bloodstock) C 0-0-53 SAM CHAMPASNE 13 (1 Bloodstock) C 5-5-53 SAM CHAMPASNE 13 (1 Bloodstock) C 1 BETTING: 4-7 Noisy Miner, 5-1 River Dano, 6-1 Eirespray, 10-1 San Champaone, 12-1 Losschbarg Express.

Noisy Miner beat Edmons neck in 9-numer novice hardle at Chepstow (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft). Erespray 6f 2nd of 11 to Scoring Pedignee in novice hurdle at littouerer (2m, soft) Sent Champion 17 3nd of 14 to Glenbouer in amenter majorn hurdle at littouerer (2m, soft) Sent Champion 17 3nd of 14 to Glenbouer in amenter majorn hurdle at littouerer 4f 110yd, good) Lotschberg Express 1/4 3nd of 10 to 0i Mother in majorn hurdle at Towcester (2m, good to soft).

NOISY MINER's form has received a boost and he can go on from his Chepstow win

3.15 SEFTON HANDICAP CHASE

(Amateurs: £6,746; 2m 6f) (7 runners) 10°60-P PINK 6N 14 (F.E.S.) (Mrs M Franca) M Hammond 10-11-10 G Borner (3) 125
51242-2 THE CARROT MAN 14 (6) (Mrs.) Wirelearth P Windworth 9-11-10 G McPtall (7) 123
FIG23- WITH MAPANTY 185 (BF.S.) (6 Mizel) P Mizella 8-11-10 J Tizzard (5) 128
S5248- ALY GALE? 204 (BF.F.S.), (M Totalt) P Mizella 8-11-10 J Tizzard (5) 128
3129-41 MICH BMPROR 30 (7) (7 Edited) A Carroll 7-11-3 — M Armylage 113
22249-6 FLAPLACK LAD 14 (F.G.S.) (J Goodsky M Coomba 12-10-4 Miss M Coomba (7) BETTIME: 5-2 The Canal Man, 3-1 With Impunity, 7-2 Inch Emperor, 4-1 Replick Led, 13-2 My Color, 7-1 Plak Gin, 20-1 Sten Mange.

FORM FOCUS

Pink Gin pulled up in handicap chase at Newcastie (3m 6f, good to firm); previously distance 14th of 36 to Lord Syllene in Grand National here at Allutree (4m 4f, good). The Caurot Man 14f 2nd of 7 to Prate 8ox in handicap chase at Chepstow (2m 3i 1104), good to soft) with Sien Nikrage (15th better off) 22l 5th. With impurity 13l 3rd of 7 to Plumbob in novice chase at Uttowelst (2m 5i, good to 50th), Ally Daley brought down in handicap chase at Sedgefield (2m 5f, good) to firm); previously 9/4f 4th of 20 to Bells Life in handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 6f, good), Inch Emperor heat Mozerno 8i in 9-numer anateurs handicap chase at Ludlow (2m 6f, good) to firm). Rapiack Lad 32 6th of 16 to Sorresheet in handicap chase at Wincanton (2m 5f, good).

THE CARROT MAN is sure to strip litter than at Chepstow and looks well treated

3.50 NORTH WEST RACING CLUB NOVICES HURDLE

| S3/2122 LOMBADON 24 (G) (Bossprint) J Old 6-11-3 ... C Linuxilyn 2 60-1 MARODON 3 (G) (All The King's Men) D Nichalson 4-11-3 ... R Johnson 97 60-1 MARODON 3 (G) (All The King's Men) D Nichalson 4-11-3 ... R Johnson 97 40 60-1 MARODON 3 (G) (All The King's Men) D Nichalson 4-11-3 ... T J Maryliv 7-1 60 60-1 Marodon 1 McCan 5-10-12 ... T J Maryliv 7-1 60 60-1 Marodon 1 Mar

1996: TREMENDISTO 6-10-12 A Dobbin (4-1) J H Wilson 10 ran

FORM: FOCUS

Cheltenham (2m 54, good to firm) Nemocial best As You Like it good, Blya 25i 5th of 18 to African an America hundle at Bangor (2m 11, good), Last Edition 21 and of 21 to Prince Dante in maden hundle at Bangor (2m 11, good), Last Edition 21 to Misch Wanted in novice hundle at New (2m, good to soft). Traceability neck 2nd of 18 to Misch Wanted in novice hundle at Kesso (2m 110yd, good). NAMOODAL was deeply impressive at Market Rasen and this is his for the taking

COURSE SPECIALISTS TRAINERS Wiles Roes 4 JOCKEYS

Alabang on sick list

ALABANG misses today's Stanley Leisure Children In Need Handicap Hurdle at Aintree. Maurice Camacho, the gelding's trainer, was forced to withdraw the gelding yesterday. Susan Camacho, the trainer's wife, said: "Alabang didn't work so well as usual on Wednesday and the vet scoped him. He advised us

RACING NEXT WEEK

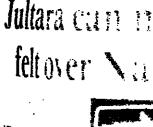
WEDNESDAY: Chepstow (1.20), Hexham (1.00), Windsor (1.10). THURSDAY: Carlisle (1.00), Teunton (1.25), Littoreter (12.45). FRIDAY: Bengor (1:20). Newbury (1:00). Lingfield Park (AW, 1 10). SATURDAY: Heydock Park (1.05), Newbury (BBC, 12.45), Newcastie (C4, 12.10), Warwick (12.30), Wolver-trampton (AW, 7.00).

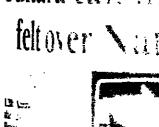
Flat meetings in bold



Jultara cum m

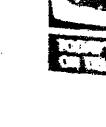
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b, T.53

b

MONDAY: Catterick (first race, 12.40), Luclow (12.50), Southwell (AW, 1.00). TUESDAY: Huntingdon (C4, 1.10), Worcester (C4, 1.25), Lingfield Park



The thing about meeting Mark Phillips is that it

brings you straight into a

don't-mention-the-war situation. I know I'm not going to

mention That Family, but how can

It is a delicate piece of social manoeuvring and the etiquette books don't help you a bit. Which means that there is always a

wariness about Phillips. It is

something that everybody who meets him must deal with and naturally, and rightly, that counts

I have known many a horse with

the same kind of air about him: big, strapping fellows of imposing presence and massive self-confi-

dence, but who are always likely to spook at anything they take a dislike to. Phillips is filled with

conversational spookiness; no

doubt a defensive reaction that

comes not from his nature, but

from hard-won experience.
Who could blame him? There

came a period in two or three

horse-filled days with Phillips,

when the horse I had been loaned,

a dominant type who insisted on being at the front, had to walk alongside the lead horse, which was ridden, of course, by Phillips.

Horsey enquette demands a little,

but not too much chat at such a

point. So I made an amiable

remark about the pleasures of a young family — and at once prompted that infinitesimal spook, that sampling of every remark for

intrusiveness or impertinence.

I followed with a joke about my own domestic life — this is just

small talk, Mark, honest - and

the tiny point of tension-was

resolved and he made a joke of his

I make him know I know?

double for a journalist.



: thinking

installer meets to the parties ballet Control of the control of the grant of the g

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William Inc.

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Taylor .

1. tag (2. 2)

own. Just two chaps on horses, talking about things such as life and horses. Life should be like weighter that the first the family Phillips has a strange facial tic. It may be physiologically-based. for all I know, but it is utterly characteristic of the man, nonetheless. His eyes half close and stay that way - half-blinked, ungiving, self-protecting. It is a slightly क्षत्रे का क्षात्र के अपने अपने आधीर् disturbing expression. You suspect Contract (that he has grown to require more

personal space than most. famous for the wrong reason. He played a long season or two before he was written out of that longrunning soap, The Windsors, and the thing about that kind of fame is that it leaves you typecast.

In his undemonstrative way, Captain Mark Phillips has become a world expert



Changing the rein

Phillips with one of his pupils at Ashford Castle in County Mayo

Talking

horse

ter, allowing him

his preference for

fast and purpose-ful work, rolling into a fine, swift

rhythm. Jumps

taken as part of the whole rolling

swing of the thing.

nothing to make a

drama about. Jumping is the art of doing noth-

ing." Phillips had said at one stage. Doing nothing, or at least little, !

burnt up the course with con-

trolled purpose

halted and waited for the rest. The horse and his rid-

er were, I fear,

rather puffed up

about it all, but it

was the teacher who had the real

And all around were fellow

pupils thinking much the same

thing. One woman had never

jumped in her life and was

confidently tackling chunky obsta-cles. Every rider was filled with the

The fact is that Philips is not just

a born horseman. He is also a born teacher. Teaching is his joy, his special delight, his purpose. Many

will recall his inarticulate, fish-out-

of-water pronouncements during

reason to puff himself up.

huzz of achievement.

upper-class twit who doesn't know about anything except (maybe) horses. So the questions I was

asked repeatedly as I returned from days in his commuch of an idiot is he? Does he really know anything about horses? Well, I reply,

he's only about the best in the world. abouts, anyway. Which made the idea of spending personal instruction intriguing, to say the least. So, when I got

on the borrowed horse, it was not auspicious when the animal's first move was to charge off sideways with his nose a good deal higher than his ears. Well, I thought, this was going to be interesting. Fast forward to 36 hours later.

The trouble is that Phillips has No longer in the indoor school, but suffered the tragedy of being out in the soft, green fields surrounded by stone walls, logs, a coffin jump and various other cross-country excitements. An amused half-smile from Phillips in my direction. "You lead. We'll follow," he said.

I eased my calm and confident

dence to the former non-jumper, to me, to the United States three day event team. The United States finished tenth at the 1992 Olympic Games, but won the silver medal in 1996. Phillips, their chej d'équipe, gave them purpose, authority, the feeling that they be-longed at the high table of world

to communicate is a gift.

Phillips likes the company of Americans, perhaps because no American can take the big soap with true seriousness. And, of course, he recently married one, Sandy Pflueger, the (now British-

suggest you forget them. When the subject is horses, Phillips's ability

He can even communicate confi-

qualified) rider. American horsepeople are prepared to take Phillips for what he is: a world-class sportsman. You don't expect a world-class sportsman to offer new insights on chaos theory or Marcel Proust. If Phillips is limited, he is limited in the manner of Linford Christie, Steve Redgrave, Ian Botham and Alan

hillips has the CV of a doer, as well as of a teacher; he won gold with the Britain three-day eventing team at the Munich Olympics in 1972, won Badminton two years running and four times in all. The record is a long way beyond good and, were it not for the big soap, he would be famous

only as a top sportsman.

Phillips no longer competes. He is involved in the international horsey life: course design, running the United States team, teaching. He gives riding clinics for paying punters and he is not inclined to take the money and rum. The matter of The Times man with his borrowed and rackety little animal involved his heart and mind.

His ability to spot and cure a flaw is devastatingly swift. Riding teachers, no doubt because of the military traditions of equestrianism, often parody themselves into hollering martinets. In two days, Phillips never once raised his voice. This is a man on his own ground, confident and generous. This is the man who escaped the big soap and returned to real life and I watched and I took part as real life stamped all around him on pounding hooves.

□ For further information about

Mark Phillips's riding clinics at Ashford Castle in Ireland, telephone 00 353 92 46003.



Jultara can make presence felt over National fences

BBC

1.20: Aardwolf can continue the good run of Charlie Brooks, despite being out of the handicap. Best racing right-handed with give in the ground, the six-year-old was in the process of running a good race when falling on his seasonal reappearance at Sandown (where Dextra Dove was tailed off). Glemot finished well ahead of Cool Dawn at Wincanton but is unproven on this surface, and Cool Dawn could be a big danger with Andrew Thornton aboard.

1.55: The hurdling career of Real Estate did not get off to an ideal start at Kempton behind Sound Appeal, but there were genuine excuses for that run and this well-regarded Flat recruit is expected to do much better. He won two middle-distance handicaps for Chris Wall last summer and is proven on soft ground. lan Balding enjoys considerable success with his small string of jumpers so a market move for Papua would be significant. Monarch's Pursuit, from Tim Easterby's in form yard. is the best of those to have run. 2.30: see facing page.

Going: good to soft (chase course), soft (hardies)

(hurdes) 1.00 (2m 4f holle) 1, Supreme Cherm (W Walsh, 9-4 fav), 2, Macmonie (4-1); 3, Maylin Magic (12-1), 10 ren. Nk, 14l. K Bailey, Tolle 23 10; £1.60, £1.70, £2.50. DF: £4.60. Tho: £20.90, CSF: £9.57.

1,35 (3m 110)(d ch) 1,5 mbol Of Success (Mr 5 Durack, 4-1); 2, Aller Moor (15-8 tav); 3, Spring Double (9-2); 5 ran. 14(, dist. D Williams Tota: £5.20; £2.20, £1.40. DF: £4.90. CSF: £10.24

2.10 (3m hole) 1, Brackenheath (N Will-iamson, 9-1); 2, Decyborg (7-2); 3, Dom Behrano (10-11 lav). 8 ran. 8t, dist. D Grissell. Tote: £8.80; £1.80, £1.20, £1.20 DF: £17.30, CSF: £25 83.

ur: 2.17.50. CSr: 253 St.

2.40 (2m 4t hole) 1, Pridwell (A P McCoy, 5-5 lev); 2, Ocean Hawk (6-1); 3, Moscow Express (11-2) 5 ran, 3, 3, M Prior Total: \$1,90; \$1.40, \$2.70 DF: \$8.70, CSF: \$7.30.

9.10 (2m ch) 1, Lockard (N Williamson, 7-4 tay); 2 Arctic Kinsman (4-1); 3 Storm Alari (3-1), 6 ran. 6l. 11. Miss V Williamson. Tole 52 50; CT.80, CT 50, DF: 25-20 CSF 27-88.

Placepor \$8.90 Quadpor \$5.00

2.50; E1.80; £7.90; £7.90; £1.50 Agard Mour (A P McCoy, 9-4); 2. Primeatul (2-1 fav); 3. Yel Agard (9-2); 5 ran. 174; 61. G L Moore. Tote: £3.00; £1.10; £1.60. DF; £3.00. CSF; £6.54.

Jackpot; £13,814.20.

Aintree

Ascot



ON TELEVISION AINTREE

BBCI

1.05: The new connections of Harlequin Chorus evidently believe him to be well treated, giving him a first look at fences in this handicap. Only modest with Jim Old last year. he will come on for his encouraging reappearance over timber at Newbury. He stays further and handles soft ground. Storm Run, bang there when falling two out at Cheltenham last week but dropped back in trip, would appear to need an even stiffer test. Stanmore's form is all on faster ground, so the danger is Winsford Hill, who ran out a most impressive winner at Worcester in September.

1.35: The presence of the front-

running Easy Listening and

RESULTS FROM YESTERDAY'S THREE MEETINGS

2.50 (2m 110yd hole) 1, Silly Momey (R Gamity, 10-11 fay); 2, Rotheri (8-1); 3, Skram (9-2), 6 an. 41, 91, T Eacterby, Tote: 91.60; \$1.40, \$1.90, DF; \$5.80, CSF: \$7.95.

\$7.85
3.20 (2m 4(ch) 1, Edehwels Du Moutin (P Carberry, 1-5 law); 2, Dandis Imp (5-1). Only two Enished, 3 ran, NR: Into The Swing Dist, 6 Richards, Tote: £1.30, DF: £1.10, CSF: £1.50.
3.50 (2m 110);d fiat) 1, Justin Mac (P Carberry, 11-4 faw); 2, Shandar A Azam (3-1); 3, Buckelson (33-1), 8 ran, NR: Rinistry Lady, 7, 2s. J Rizgerald, Tote: £3.20; £1.70, £1.30, £7.70, DF; £4.50, Tho: £3.40 CSF: £10.12.

Khalidi should ensure a RICHARD EVANS strong pace here. That was

one of the factors that set up Good Vibes for an impressive defeat of Alabang at Wetherby on his reappearance. He acts on this easier ground. Also well suited by sitting off the pace is Chai-Yo, who showed his liking for this sharp track last year. Flying Eagle, easy winner of an uncompetitive race at Sandown, has more to

2.10: The bold-jumping

Stormtracker should be quite a spectacle over the National fences here, but he is ideally suited by faster ground. Young Hustler, beaten by only one horse in two appearances in this race, may need the run this time after his long lay-off. Nor can his stablemates, Dakyns Boy and the National third, Camelot Knight, be backed with confidence, given the patchy form of their trainer this term. Samlee and Court Melody would enter calcula-tions but make the odd mistake. Sounds Strong made a worthy return at Wetherby, but lacks the potential of Jultara, who is worth forgiv-ing an uncharacteristic mishap at Kempton. He is 81b out of the handicap, but that is less of a concern in long-distance chases, and he could prove well handicapped anyway.

CHRIS MCGRATH

(20-1). 9 ren. Hd. Bl. P Haslam, Tota: £1.60, £1.10, £2.80, £2.40, DF-£8.10. Tito: £26.10. CSF: £7.18.

1.55 (6) 1, Elite Hope (Dean McKeown, 8-1): 2, U-No-Harry (16-1), 3, River Ensign (12-1). Urtra Beet 4-1 fev: 12 ran. NF: Municipal-Girl 144, hd. N Tinkler, Tota: £70 80; £2 10, £4 30, £2 60. DF-£101.50. CSF: £117 61. Tito: £357.60 (part won. Pool of £266.55 carried forward to 2.30 Ascot today)

1,00 Jessica One. 1,30 Freedom Of Troy. 2,05 Shining Edge. 2,35 Bardaros. 3,10 Golden Helfo.

GOING: GOOD (GOOD TO FIRM IN PLACES)

1.00 goathland mares only maiden HURDLE (\$2,486: 2m 3f) (15 runners)

		(—) —: •·) ···-···
1	-44P	AMEKA'S GEM 15 (V) Mrs 5 Bactourns 4-11-0 . E Callaghan (3)
2	œ	CAROL AGAIN 154F N Bycrot 5-11-0
3	00-Ò	CEELMYBLE 3S N Chamberlain 4-11-0 R Supple
ā		CELTIC COMMA 10 W Reed 6-17-0 T Reed
- 3		CHANTELY ROSE R Breats 5-11-6 B Storey
ĕ	0.30	DELIGHTFOOL 10 R Neos 6-11-0
7		FOREVER GREY 23 (F) J Howard Johnson 5-11-0 P Carbony
Ė		GE SAN STAR 203 C Fachors 4-11-0 D Bendey
9		HAPPY GALE II Mason 4-11-0 L O'Hara
10	5-0	HUTCHES LADY 6 R McKeller 5-11-0
11	2-12	JESSICA ONE 14 (G) Nats M Reneity 6-11-0 P Neven
12	30U6	MEADOWLECK 12 W Young 8-11-0
13		NATIVE SONG 416F W Stocky 4-11-0 M Minimity
14	99.F	POLITICAL DIAMOND 12 J Churton 6-11-0 O Thomas (7)
15	ng.	TABRIZ 236 P Ayrson 4-11-0
-		
8-11 J	اعتني	One, S-1 Tabriz, B-1 Fotese: Grey, 18-1 Native Song, 12-1 Andra's
Germ 1	4-7 (2)	entilly Rose, 16-1 Meadowleck, 20-1 others.

1.30 BROMPTON JUVENILE NOVICES CLAIMING HURDLE (3-Y-0: £1,996: 2m) (11)

| 130 DESMRITON TREES 13 (9.17) Windows 11-6 C Microwark (7)
2 DR WOODSTOKE 75 W Sovey 11-0 R Microwa (2)
3 HEVER GOLF CHARMER 66F B Rottwelf 17-0 R Supple
4 WILLISSP 2025 J Berry 11-0 D Parties
5 CANNY DAIL 28-10 Dates 10-11 D D Bestley
6 OS SPECULATIVE 7 (8) W Sovey 10-11 M Microwa
7 OF TREAL MISCREF 22 D Morbes 10-9 D J Microwa
8 PDS FORTUNE HUNTER 29 J Norbes 10-8 B Gratian (5)
9 OH MON PERFORMER 19 (8) M Caracteo 10-8 E Callegham (3)
10 RESIDNA 42 Microwa 10-8 E Callegham (3)
11 496 LA PERDONA 42 Microwa 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
11 1496 LA PERDONA 42 Microwa 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
1 14 Destroy 10-9 S 2 Microwa 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
1 14 Destroy 10-9 S 2 Microwa 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
1 15 DESTROY 10-9 S 2 Microway 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
1 15 DESTROY 10-9 S 2 Microway 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
1 15 DESTROY 10-9 S 2 Microway 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey
1 15 DESTROY 10-9 S 2 Microway 5-5 D Richards 10-9 S Sovey 7-4 Freedom Of Troy, 9-2 Mos. Performer, 5-1 Dissington Times, 7-1 La Pendoma. 8-1 Fortune Hunter, 10-1 Hever Golf Charaver, 12-1 Dr Woodstock, 14-1 others.

2.05 northern echo racing north novices CHASE (£3,324: 2m) (7) 1 25-3 FRYUP SATELUTE 11 (6) Mrs. J Brown 6-11-3 E Callegham (2) 2 0-42 SHAMBE EDGE 14 (BF.D.F.G) T Easterly 5-11-3 ... 8 Sharey 3 -735 SH.VER MBOK 14 (D.F.G.S) Mrs. M Reveley 5-11-3 ... P Marer 4 13-F SHACLENSK 15 (BF.D.F.) J Broy 5-11-3 ... O Parler 5 0-33 TOM BROOK 25 (D.F.G.) J Howard Jehrson 7-11-3 P Carborny 7 0-00 POLITICAL MANDATE 6 N Noon 4-10-0 ... C McCharmack (7)

6-4 Shining Edge, 5-2 Torn Boden, 7-2 Smolessi, 10-1 Fryop Satelline, 12-1 Silvo Nitro, 16-1 Lucky Bea, 50-1 Political Mandate.

2.35 DARLINGTON & STOCKTON TIMES HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,705: 3m 11 110yd) (7)

3.10 dick brewitt memorial challenge CUP (Handicap chase: £3,149: 2m 3f) (6)

2.30 (7) 1, Pas De Memoires (D Biggs, Evers tav); 2, Critical Åir (3-1); 3, Summer Desi (10-1) 12 ran. 4, 1%1. M Tompkins. Tote: £1.90; £1.40, £2.40, £2.90. DF: 04.10. Trio: £16.50. CSF £4.63. Tricast. £26.52. 15-8 Corston John, 9-4 Golden Helto, 4-1 Martie Man, 9-2 Chadwick's Gorger. 13-2 Tayalch, 25-1 Spring Loaded. 23.52 3.00 (7) 1, Caudillo (J Culm, 8-1); 2, Heathyards Lady (16-1); 3, Be Warned (7-1). Mybotyo (4th) 3-1 fev. 11 ran. NR: Partiter. 14, rik. Mrs. P Dutield. Tols: C13.20; c3.60, c3.00. c7.60 DF 274.60. Tino: E252.50. CSF: £128.59. Tricast: £390.02 3.45 WOOD HOUSE NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (\$2,479: 2m) (10)

4.00 (1m 48) 1, Mr Fortywinks (Mass Dians Jones, 5-1); 2. Lucky Bogona (12-1); 3. Montecasto (4-6 key). 12 ran. 91, hd. J Eyre Tote: £5.40; £1.40, £3.10, £1.40. DF: 52.60. Two £18.70. CSF: £69.21, Tricast £55.89. **COURSE SPECIALISTS**

TRANERS: T Easteby, 7 venues total 15 number, 48.7%, Mrs. M. Reveley, 17 form 67, 19.5%, J J Oakon, 6 tour 33, 18.2%; L Lungo, 8 form 45, 17.4%; J Morien, 3 from 20, 15.0%.
JOCKEYS: P Niven, 19 venues: http://pides.24.1%. P Carbony, 5 form 25, 20.0%; M Malconey, 5 from 26, 19.2%; E Callaghan, 7 from 40, 17.5%, T Reed, 11 from 81, 13.6%.

MARKET RASEN

12.50 River Bay, 1.25 Oakbury, 1.55 Ermine Street, 2.25 Know-No-No. 3.00 Sammorello. 3.35 Swynford

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

12.50 EBF TATTERSALLS (IRELAND) MARES ONLY NOVICES CHASE (£3,795; 2m 4f) (4 nuners)

1 483 ADE MEMORE: 10 (S) R Johnson 8-10-10 K Johnson 2 07- OWENS QUEST 376 (D.C.S) T Einenglen 7-10-10 ... J Supple 3 293- BWER BAY 219 S) MES H Knight 6-10-10 ... 3 Festion 4 P70- SPRINGFIELD RHYME 210 S Gollings 6-10-10 ... W Marston 4-7 River Bay. 11-4 Aude Memoiro, 7-1 Owens Quest. 14-1 Springfield Rhyme

1.25 CLUGSTON SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,774: 2m 3l 110yd) (7) 1 0540 HEVER GOLF DIAMOND 9 (B.F.G) J R Best 4-12-0

2 0-20 AFRICAN SUN 9 M Chapman 4-11-8 B McBarn (7)
2 0-20 AFRICAN SUN 9 M Chapman 4-11-8 W Worthington
3 35-5 SONG FOR JESS 148 F Lucian 4-11-7 D Byrns
0 0-10 DAMBERY 15 K Coll Mirc. L Eachail 5-11-5 T School (7)
5 0-5P MESA TID 5 J Poulton 5-10-7 J Magus (3)
6 0P-6 SWIPER 11 F Raintage 5-10-3 J Chillippian
7 0-00 FIRE SPORT 9 M Lampand 5-10-0 L Committee (5)
Song For Jess, 3-1 Dakton. 7-2 Abritan Sun 7-1 Magus (5) 5-2 Song For Jess, 3-1 Califory, 7-2 Alintan Son, 7-1 Hevel Golf Diamond, Sreper. 8-1 Mega Tid, 25-1 Fine Spira

1.55 CONSORT TRAVEL NOVICES HURDLE (£2,705: 2m 5t 110yd) (11)

2.25 CLUGSTON HANDICAP CHASE (£4,560: 2m 11 110yd) (4)

3.00 CLUGSTON NOVICES HANDICAP CHASE (£3,678: 3m 11) (12)

(£3,678* 3m 11) (12)

1 P4-2 PLAT 10P 12 (5) M W Exclusiv 6-12-0 ... P Militaginy (5)

2 O6-F BASSEMBALLY 29 (G) Mrs. P Sty 7-11-7 ... W Magnation 3

5 F2-1 MP FOR RANSOME 222 (F) Mrs. A Manginton B-11-1 ... J Supple 4

2225 MODBAGOR 32 (F) 6.5 N Modgam 6-10-12 ... B Massay (3)

5 P42 SAMMORELLO 14 (F,5) N Twiston-Davies 6-10-11 ... T Jones 6

1-14 FORT ZEDOMAN 9 (J) Mrs. 5 Samil-7-10-10 ... S F Ryand 7

2-4 DESPHANTE DAVS 253 (S) F Roby 8-10-7 ... W Owen 8

9 7-4 MORGINGSFORPENAUTS 258 (5) (5 Samil-7-10-3 ... W Owen 19

10 Q42 TUDOR FELLOW 11 J Week 8-10-2 ... B Ferton 11 J415 SMOWDON LEV 14 (BF,D,6) F R Webber 6-10-0 J A McCartby 12 S-PP LIST FOR ME 11 J A Massa B-10-0 ... M H Maughton (5)

5-2 Flat Top. 5-1 Summorello 6-1 Snowdon Liv., 7-1 Tudor Fellow, 8-1 Mochadro, WodungCoperands, 12-1 Up For Ransone, For Zeadson, 16-1 others.

3.35 INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (£2,331: 2m 1i 110yd) (7)

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRANSPRS: Mics 21 Knapta, 10 winners from 32 minners, 31 3%; 10 Twiston-Davies, 7 from 26, 26,9%; J Fitzgerald, 15 from 97, 15,5%, Mics 1 Saddal, 6 from 45, 13,3%, Airs S Smith, 12 from 96, 17,5%. JOCKEYS: T Jesús. 3 whoses from 9 ndes, 33.3% F Leshy, 8 from 55, 14.5%; D Bytte, 9 from 69, 13.0%, R Garriny, 13 from 115, 11.3%, W Maeston, 3 from 30, 10.0%

Blinkered first time

Pilsudski favourite to finish career on high in Japan

stalled the 7-4 favourite by Coral to finish his racing career on a winning note in the Japan Cup at Tokyo in the early hours of tomorrow

morning.

The globetrotting five-yearold, trained by Michael
Stoute, is aiming to add a
further £882,000 in prizemoney to his already impressive haul before being retired

to stud. Michael Kinane's mount attempts to become only the third British-trained horse to take the race, but a second successive winner for Michael Stoute, who saddled Singspiel to success 12 months ago.

The mile-and-a-half event, with total prize-money of 327million yen (£1.5million), is one of the few races in Japan open to foreign horses. It has fallen to an overseas raider !! times in 16 runnings. Victory would make Pilsud-

ski, drawn in stall three, a group one winner in five different countries. His previous successes at the highest level have come in the Mercedes-Benz Grosser Preis Von Baden in Germany and the Breeders Cup Turf in Canada last year, and the Eclipse Stakes, Champion Stakes and Irish Champion Stakes this season. Also runner-up in the Prix

de l'Arc de Triomphe for the last two years, he has earned over £1.9million in career prize-money. Next to him in stall four will

be fellow British challenger Mons, for whom Luca Cumani has booked John Reid to replace the suspended Frankie Dettori, Last month Mons finished third in the Gran Premio del Jockey Club Lando two years ago. Europe is also represented by the dual Irish St Leger winner, Oscar Schindler (Cash Asmussen), and French raider Astarabad (Gerald Mosse), a group three winner at Bordeaux last month.

two lengths behind tomor-

row's rival Caitano (Andrasch

Starke), who bids to follow up

Germany's success with

Ebony Grosve (Shane Dye). who disappointed in the Melbourne Cup, represents Aus-



Stoute: fine chance

tralia, while the main home hopes appear to rest with Air Groove and Bubble Gum Fellow, who have been batthing for Japanese horse of the year honours all season. After Pilsudski at 7-4, Coral

bets: 7-2 Air Groove, 9-2 Bubble Gum Fellow, 7-1 Astarabad, Oscar Schindler, 12-1 Ebony Grosve, Caitano, 16-1 Royal Touch, Rosen Kavalier, 20-I Silk Justice, 33-1 Mons, Tsukuba Symphony, 50-1 Snow Endeavour, Taiki Fortune.

TOKYO TOMORROW

GOING: FIRM

06.20 JAPAN CUP (Group I. £882,096, 1m 4t) (14 runners)

ASCOT: 3.40 Petraugh CATTERICK: 1.30 Speculative

Going: good (good to soft in places) 1.10 (2m 4) hole) 1. Scotton Green (R McGrath, 3-1 jr-lav); 2. China King (4-1); 3. Leep in The Dark (14-1). Miles Stan 3-1 jr-law, 7 cm; 41.171. T Easterby, Tolar 23.60; 22.00, 52.10 DF; 25.60, CSF; £11.77. 1.20 (75.1, No Grousing (L Charnock, 4.5 | Placepot: £364.90 | Savi; 2, Mutascawker (8-1); 3, Violetie Sebo | Quadpot: £165.10.

Placepot £17.90

Quadpot \$6.50.

Going: standard
12.50 (6l) 1, The Happy Fox (L. Newton, 10-11 fav); 2, Sea-Dear (6-2; 3, Bold Aristocrat (12-1), 12 mn, NR; Salty Bahawiour, Hd. 2, B Mckkelon, Tote: \$1.90; £1.10, £1.80, £3.00. OF £3.20. This £8.00. CSF: £2.86.

Wolverhampton

4.30 (7) 1. Trotum Hero (A Culhers, 4-1); 2. Concer Aral (2-1 fav); 3. Shortaine (5-1). 71 fan. NR: Hype Superior 8, 141 Mas M. Heveley Tote 15.40, 23.40, 21.20, 21.90. DP: £22.20. Tric: £3.20 CSF: £13.65. Tricast: £43.69.

29:00 02 3.30 (8) 1, Ok Bebe (D Biggs, 4-1); 2, Pip's Addition (7-1), 3, Teepley Girl (16-1). The Robe (Girl) 2-1 (av. 13 (art. 3), 21, J Alestrust, Tone: 23 60, 61 30, 62 30, 65 10. DF: £12 10, Trio. £255, 10, CSF; £37.12

3281 SPT CPE 96, all extra £3,800 under forecourt price £26,000. tal: 0410 032760

\$3056 Touring, 93K, Fildwitt alloys, 49k mis, man, ABS, say Mat Grey, 513k, 01732 843625

S201 SE. EH suno. Metallic silver Georg. 67,000 rale. Survice his tory. Computer. Alloys. Factory fitted sizes. Pull electrics. New types. FAC. WestParty. El 995 0181 891 6100. Autohaba.

SCOTTS

97R Mercedes Benz

SLK 230 Kompressor.

Linerite Blue, quartz

leather, aircon, a/s/c,

e/w. c/holders, cruise,

premium audio, a/w

Convertible. Arctic

Silver, leather, p/hood,

r/alarm, 10cd, r/spoiler,

r/h/seats, M3 a/wheels

97R BMW Z3 1.9

Blue, beige leather,

aircon, e/sear, abs, ew,

edm, car l alarm,

840i Sport

Dakar Yallow, Black Leather

Sturning, 97R, EP.O.A.

Sytnerdirect

00

0115 924 1144

Whitehouse

795i Auto Biarritz Blue, Comfo

rats, Harrigaten, 7K zalles,

97P 840I A Spt Orient Blue, Sport ...

BSN 840 CLA Arctic Grey, Bolted X-Spokes, 32K

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Is this really a new Norton?



Why the bus can't compete any more

Page 47



Rewing up for the RAC Rally

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22 1997

This road cure is going to hurt

Everyone agrees the Government

Even the

we drive

too much

must do something about traffic but not to them, says Alan Copps

he first target has already been singled out: stand by for more howls of protest from that much-pilloried creature, the company car driver.

When the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, stands up on Tuesday to deliver his pre-Budget statement in the Commons, his words will be keenly examined by everyone in the transport business. Ministers and officials have

indicated this week that stiffer taxes on company cars are likely to be balanced by tax breaks for those whose employers pay for season

But before the much-heralded integrated transport policy de-signed to tackle congestion and pollution takes shape, the Government has a mountain of paperwork to climb - the 4,000 replies to its consultation document on transport issued in August. These, it has promised, will play a major part in shaping the White Paper on trans-

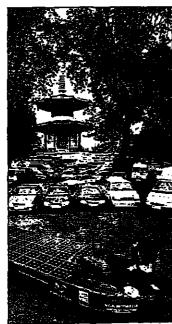
next spring. That we rely too carmakers heavily on the car is not in dispute, even the admit that motor - manufacturers accept that. The figures on the right show how dramatically our patterns of travel have shifted in the past 35

port to be published

years. But a glance at some of those replies serves only to emphasise what a mass of conflicting interests and historic misconceptions any new policy has to

For example, the company cardriver might seem a popular target for increased taxation, but the Retail Motor Industry Federation that the number of company cars, according to the tax definition, has already fallen from 1.95 million to 1.65 million in the past five years. It estimates that of the 25.5 million cars on Britain's roads only 5.35 million are used regularly for business.

Since company cars now account for more than 50 per cent of all new car sales, those cars most prominently in the line of tax-



A solar car leads Powershift's line-up of cleaner-fuel gas and electric-propelled vehicles

ation's fire are the newest, and therefore the cleanest on the roads. Private motorists going to and from work, school, the shops or just for a drive are likely to cause greater pollution.

Only one thing is going to get those drivers out of their cars: 2 drastic improvement in public transport. That is the one point of agreement in almost every response.

Railtrack, which perhaps stands to gain more than anyone else from such a change, says it could double services within 15 years if the demand were there. But demand will only grow, it says, if road users are made to pay the "true social costs" of their journeys. According to its calculation road users pay only 28 per cent of the true cost of any journey at the time they make it (the petrol bill, rather than road maintenance,

depreciation, servicing, etc). So a great deal of its response spells out how road users might be taxed to make them more aware of this. Meanwhile, the mo-

tor industry is demanding to know what happens to the £26 billion raxes already paid annually by mo-torists. Even if not spent on roads, it should be spent on transport, says RMI chief execu-

tive, Christopher Macgowan. Almost everyone who responded to the consultation wants some sort of subsidy for their own interest. The Government has taken one small practical step by starting to convert its own fleet of 175 ministerial cars to run on natural gas. The Energy Saving Trust, which, through the Powershift initiative, is responsible for encouraging clean alternative fuels, applauds this. At last month's motor show it organised an impressive array of

gas and electric-powered vehicles. But it, too, says tax breaks are essential if others are to follow the Government's example. In particular it says the image of the bus must be cleaned up. Operators are currently reluctant to change to cleaner fuels because they get a rebate on the duty they pay on

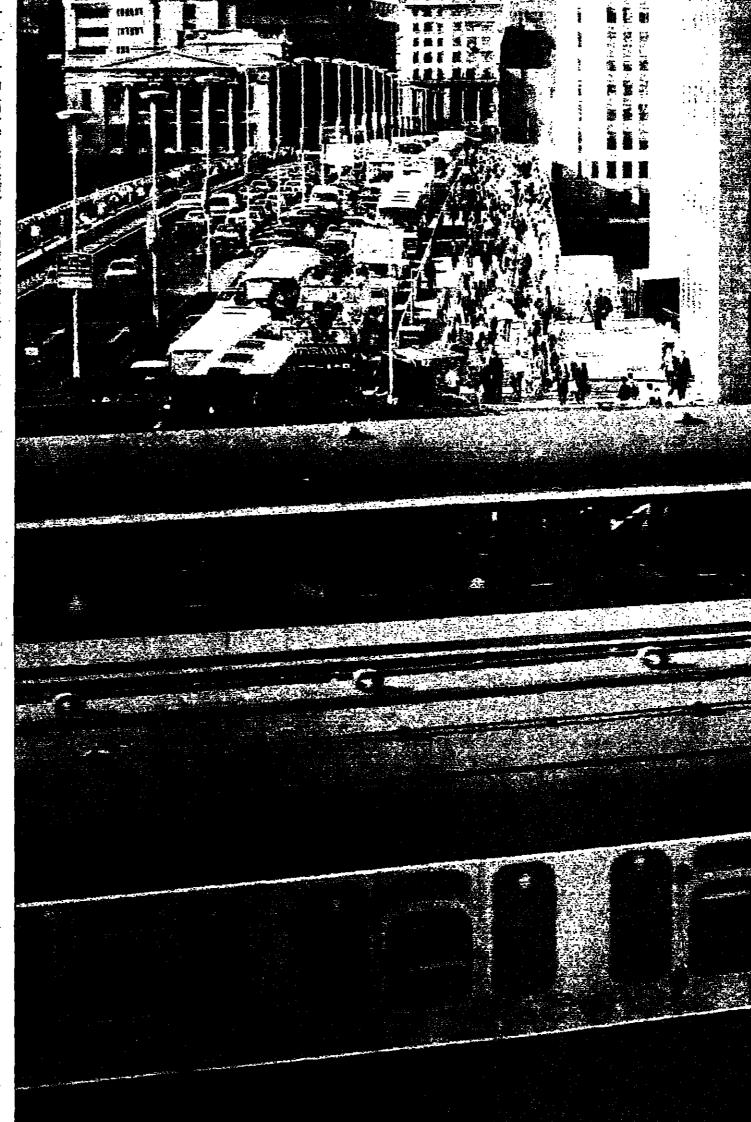
conventional fuels.

Powershift admits that alternative fuels can only be part of the answer, but says that since a massive switch away from road transport is unlikely, it is vital to educate the public about which fuels are cleaner than petrol or diesel and to make them more

widely available. While most responses focus on city traffic, there are several good ideas for rural areas, such as one from the Council for the Protection of Rural England for walkers; cyclists and horse riders to be iven priority over motorised trai-

fic on certain lanes.

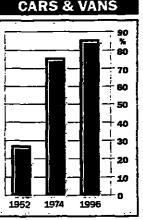
Of the alternative means of transport, the RMI makes a good case for motorcycles, in particular scooters and mopeds, to reduce congestion and pollution, especially in cities. But the provision of secure parking at stations and workplaces for these vehicles is essential, it says. The Government, however, is already considering taxing parking places at work.



Railroaded by policy: train operators say they could double their services if new taxes were tough enough to force drivers out of cars

Rise of king car

IN 1952 Britons travelled 219 billion kilometres (136.5 billion miles) in the UK, more than 60 per cent of them on public transport. Last year we travelled more than three times as far; 86 per cent by car. All other forms of domestic transport (except for air) have declined dramatically. The graphs show the percentage of all travel accounted for by various modes of transport

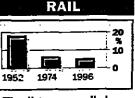


■ THE PROPORTION of travel in private cars more 1962. It has grown steadily at 1-2 per cent a year since. The total distance of all road journeys has increased by more than 150 per cent.

BUSES & COACHES

■ BUSES declined quickly after the war. Bus travel was halved to 21 per cent between 1952 and 1964. Since then, regardless of reorganisations and privatisation the decline has been absolutely steady.

1952 1974



The distance travelled by Britons on the railways has remained remarkably steady, between 35 and 40 billion kilometres per year. But the train's share of travel has declined from 18 per cent to just 5 per cent.

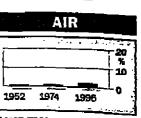
MOTORCYCLES

1952 1974 **■** MOTORCYCLE use reached a peak of 4 per cent from 1957-1961 but then fell sharply to I per cent by

1968. The early 1980s saw a resurgence followed by another fall. Current trends suggest another rise.

PEDALCYCLES 1952 1974 1996

NOTHING matches the fall of pedal power. In 1952 it accounted for more than 10 per cent of all our travel. By 1968 the figure was I per cent and despite booming cycle sales it remains at that level.



■ WE FLY much more now than we did in 1952 - a total of 6.3 billion kilometres last year against just 2 million in the 1950s. But as a proportion of our domestic people-moving, it remains negligible.

Could Reliants be the answer? Ask the American Embassy parking places that a stretch-limo



Hot to Trotter: Mike Gilbert bought Del Boy's car from the television series, Only Fools and Horses

nly fools want lots of horse-power, it seems, when driving in Britain's capital. So the American embassy has taken a leaf out of Del Boy's book and

bought three Reliant Robins. With next week's draft budget likely to point the way towards reducing the size of cars clogging Britain's roads, the embassy could find itself among the trendsetters. It is is so pleased with the threewheelers that it has just bought two newer models.

"They are economical, manoeuvrable and good for running about town," says an embassy spokesman. The Americans' Robins are used to ferry maintenance crews to repair embassy houses and to carry general supplies, the spokesman adds.

For Americans used to cheap petrol, the Robin offers a special relationship with comparatively expensive British garage forecourts. The embassy's Robin Giant Pick-Up and the Super Van get between 56 and 72 miles to the gallon. The Super Vans cost just £5,140 each and road tax is £60 a year instead of

Eve-Ann Prentice on three-wheeling

£150 for more conventional

vehicles. The manoeuvrability and low running costs may prove even more apposite after next Tuesday's announcements. The Government has already said it plans to reduce the number of parking places in London, sharply increase parking fees and cut the number of residents' parking permits. The scheme, revealed by Transport Minister Glenda Jackson last month, has brought warnings from the RAC that some areas of London could be killed off if people are prevented from driving to them.

Westminster Council, meanwhile, is to introduce Britain's highest parking meter fees in parts of the borough next year. The increase, from £2.40 to £3 an hour, will be accompanied by increases in parking ticket fines, from £60 to £80 in the West End. So a Trotter-style, three-wheeler-dealer van can reach

Jaguar to senior management, liked Reliant Robins so much that he bought the factory in Tamworth,

Jonathan Heynes, who worked

his way up from the shop floor at

Staffordshire in January, 1996. Clearly the American embassy thinks it is a unique vehicle and that gives us a tremendous edge to go to other embassies and seek commissions, he says. The company is now on a high with 250 Robins, worth £500,000, an order. "We have improved quality very much and there is confidence in the new company," says Heynes. "The cars have a revised cooling system.

could only dream of.

trim and engine quality. The forebears to the Trotters' trusty Reliant van were first produced by Tom Lawrence Williams in the garden of his home in Tamworth in 1934. The first passenger car, the Regal, was made in 1953 and boasted a revolutionary (literally) steering wheel instead of a handlebar, and managed a top

speed of 60mph.

better instrumentation, interior

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New plans to price drivers out of cars will fail — the Tories sold the alternative

Labour's road policy has just missed the bus

he closing date for submissions to the Government on coping with cars and related transport matters has now passed and we await a White Paper next spring. More than 4,000 individuals and organisations sent in suggestions and the Transport Department is adamant that these will be considered as a basis for policy and not just used to mop up spilt coffee. A small hint of the direction of

A small hint of the direction of government transport policy may emerge next Tuesday, when the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, gives his "pre-budget report". This is largely about the fiscal position ahead of the Budget next March but he may say something that points at cutting or abolishing company car benefit.

This is a transposition of the direction of the Budget next March but he may say something that points at cutting or abolishing company car benefit.

company car benefit.

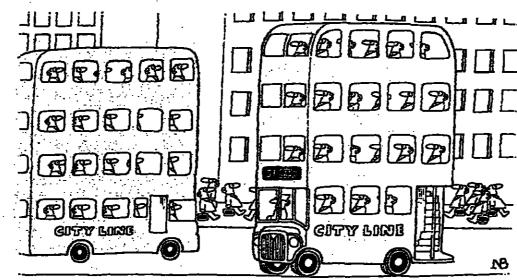
This is a mere hillock on the mountain that has to be climbed to solve all our transport problems. Nor will a single White Paper transform our lives; that is not in the nature of politics. The best we can hope is that the Government will keep a proper balance between carrot and stick.

There are some in the anti-car lobby who simply want drivers punished. These spoilsports would charge El a mile for travel on motorways and, in the event that this had not bankrupted us, they would charge another huge sum for the privilege of entering cities in order to be clamped.

Nobody pretends that we can let car growth expand without doing something, but there are too many people who pretend that the car is the only thing that needs attention. Public transport provision is much more important in persuading people out of their cars than changes to the cost of driving.

There is now yery little Labour

There is now very little Labour can do about public transport, however, because the Tories sold it. Tory dogma has done more to cloud and restrict the transport debate than any other single factor. Take London. When Ken Livingstone ran the city as leader



of the old Greater London Council, from 1981 to 1986, he did some barrny things but he got transport policy right. The flat-fare system on the buses and Tubes worked, it

was simple and effective.

That policy died with the GLC. So now fares are complex and too high, with the result that too many people suffer in their cars rather than suffer on the Tube.

Buses have become a double problem in cities. They are not cheap enough and they block the roads. The reason buses block the roads is that, in order to fatten the calf for privatisation, the old public bus services introduced one-man operated buses. Now drivers are obliged to take fares, they have to stop for longer than if they had a conductor.

Indeed a certain amount of mendacity was attached to the introduction of bus lanes. We were told they would ensure that public transport flowed like a river. The reality is different. Part of the reason bus lanes were needed was to cover up the disastrous consequences of abolishing bus conductors.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

I cannot see how the Government can intervene significantly to change these policies now that buses are in the private sector. I suppose the industry regulator could do something about fares, but there is not much evidence that having a rail regulator is reducing rail fares: peak-time returns from London to three destinations: Leeds, £102; Cardiff, £77; Plymouth, £106.

Road pricing would only get car drivers on to the railways if, for example, the 310-mile London-Cardiff return journey by road is more expensive than the £77 return rail fare. At about £3 a gallon, that journey by car would cost half the rail fare. However much people are encouraged to use the total cost of motoring as a comparison, they will usually focus on the real cost of a given

journey.

If the Government tries to price drivers off the roads rather than pricing them on to public transport it will be making a very big political error.

ON OCTOBER 18, I referred to new regulations for minibus drivers. The DVLA points out that regulations in force from January 1, 1998 will not apply to everyone driving a minibus, whether or not it is for hire or reward. Changes for drivers who held a car licence prior to January 1, 1997 only take effect when they renew their licences after next January.

Drivers who first received a licence after January 1, 1997 will be able to drive a minibus for a non-commercial organisation. Fact sheets INF2S and INF40 are available from the DVLA, telephone 01792 792 792.



John Naish on the row over a new bike that diehard fans are calling jerry-built

Royce ... and now Norton is the latest illustrious British name to have fallen into the hands of German manufacturing.

A German company has launched a new motorcycle bearing the famous badge — which came as a surprise to British owners of the name and caused consternation among Norton enthusiasts. The II5mph bike emerged at the International Motorcycle Show at Birmingham's National Exhibition Centre last week.

An executive from the Norton factory at Shenstone in Leicestershire dashed to the show to discover the motorcycling equivalent of a beach towel on his deckchair: a stand and an £8,000 machine that bore little resemblance to Norton's classic bikes.

Bob Haynes, Shenstone's general manager, says: "I was livid when I saw the prototype and sad that the motorcycle show organisers had allowed it to be displayed."

allowed it to be displayed."

Joe Siefert, the German businessman behind the bike, was unrepentant. He now owns the rights to the Norton name in continental Europe and is proud of his motor-

cycle, even though it cannot be sold in Britain for legal reasons.

"I bought my first Norton in 196S and have been a fan ever since. That is why I became involved with the company and bought the European trademarks." he said.

Nortons, once the pride of Britain's motorcycle industry, ceased being built in 1995 after Norton Motors Ltd crashed. Now the group's assets are owned by a Canadian company, and several individuals, including Siefert, own territorial rights around the world. While the British factory is still kept open, manned by a skeleton staff of half a dozen workers, no bikes have been produced for four years.

Myron Calof, of the Canadian owner, Aqualini Investment, says only a bike made in England by English craftsman should bear the Norton badge. And he revealed there are serious plans to build a high-tech modern machine: "It's taking us longer than we wanted, but we are working hard to put the infrastructure in place. We hope to reveal details in the new year."

ROLLS-ROYCE &

BENTLEY

In the meantime, however, Siefert decided to make his own motorcycle to celebrate Norton's

NORTON C652SM

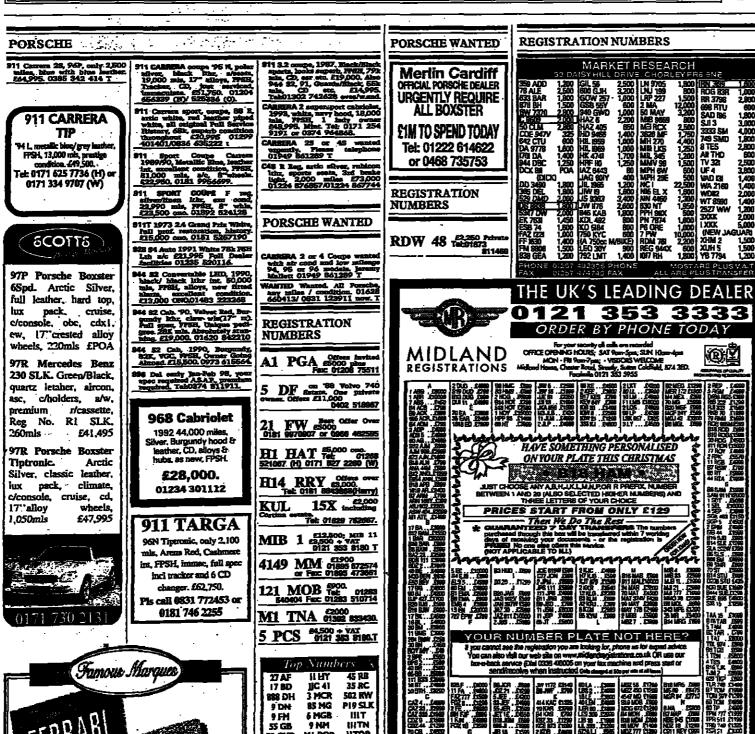
Engine: Four-valve Swiss 652cc single-cylinder watercooled Rotax, delivering around 48bhp.
Suspension: German front (Bilstein), Italian rear (Paoli).
Frame: English, by Tigcraft.
Brakes: Italian (Brembo).
Price: Around £8,000.
Available next year, though you will have to go to Germany to buy one.

100th anniversary. The prototype was finished in four months and built around a single-cylinder 650cc Swiss Rotax engine. Apart from the frame, very little of the machine, named the Norton C652SM, is British.

Peter Cocks, chairman of the 4,000-strong Norton Owners Club, said: "Slapping a Rotax engine in a frame is not going to recreate the flavour of a Norton."

But Siefert save his machine is a

But Siefert says his machine is a labour of love: "I'm not really doing it as a commercial enterprise," he adds, "but to build a Norton that handles well, is light weight and good on country roads. I plan to build 100 next year and will just about break even on the project."



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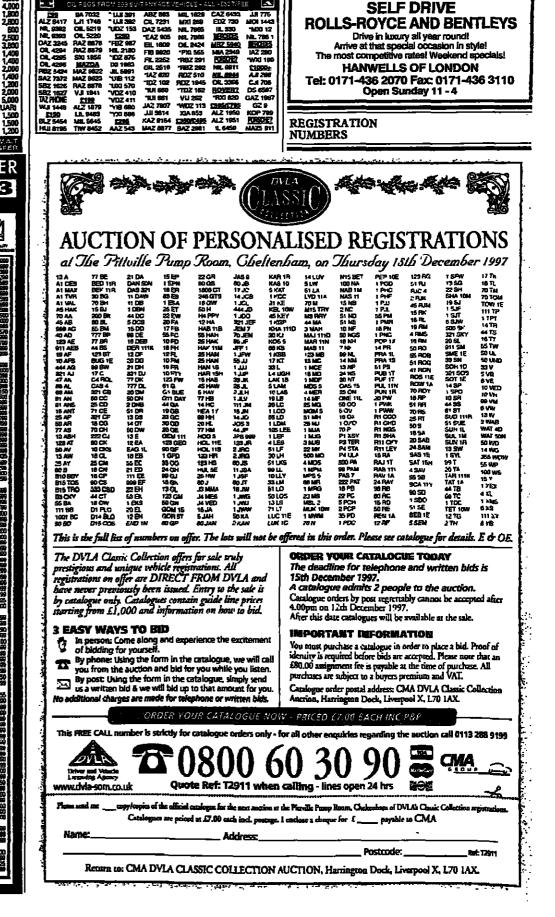
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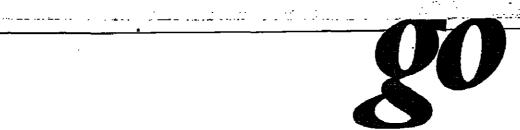
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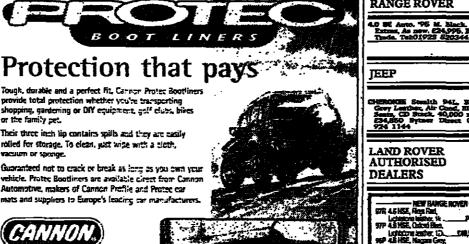
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I'l never nlly to that man's sice again

e last time Juha ankkunen, rallyng's most successful triver, invited me for a drive, is £250,000 car broke down. Inight have been wise to have it at that.

Kankmen, 38, winner of 21 rallies ad four world championships has had an erratic season is year and went out of the rent Australian raily after hing a tree. Nevertheless, them shone on the rally track at ilverstone on the day of our sond try, and as it was only da: to go before the start of the KC Rally. I comforted myself with the fact that Kankkuen was, no doubt, saving mself for the big one.

I builtily took my place in a line f enthusiastic junior rally dvers who had won a competon to ride with Kankkunen"Oh dear, looks like you're umber seven darling — notvery lucky," said a helpfulngineer. But the helpfulngineer But the helpfulnging at last, so with a reling of unshakeable confidere I buckled up in the Escort ext to him.



Strapped in next to Juha Kankkunen, Morag remembers the old warning, "May your wishes never come true"

But what I had mistaken for a "Shall we dance?" smile was the Devil's in disguise. Hellbent on showing me what I had missed out on previously, Kankkunen pulled out all the stops. Through mud and over gravel, the car popped and banged until we were travelling at speeds of up to 80mph. That might not sound fast,

tight that you find yourself being driven sideways, there is nothing in the world like it. Which is not to say I did not enjoy it. Grinning from ear to ear (I have no idea why), I turned helplessly to my driver to check that he had not gone completely bonkers, and was still holding on to the wheel.

To reassure myself again, I looked down to check his pixie-

booted feet. One of them did not leave the accelerator. The brakes — which can bring the car to an immediate halt at the gentlest of nudges — were rudely ignored until the turn of every corner.

My stomach shrank and I stopped breathing for the whole of the outing. It was like sitting next to a robot, but this one can read, and I suddenly

had the horrible idea that he might have been offended by my earlier article deriding his ability at the wheel of a family car. This was his high-speed revenge. I was still smiling when we

eventually came to a halt, but I scrambled as quickly as I could from the seat of his car. No one leapt to wrap a reassuring arm around my shoulder or lead me to a nearby seat.

They thought I had enjoyed

They thought I had enjoyed it — until minutes later when, with a mug of sweet milky tea in my hand. I started to shake. I have only ever seen people do this after car crashes, but my heart-stopping experience must have been the next worst thing.

thing.
Meanwhile, Kankkunen was coolly preparing for his flight home to join his wife and young son at their cottage in Laukaa, Finland. It was all in a day's work for him. For me, it was a once-in-a-lifetime ride — never ever to be repeated.

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Nervous start for the first stagers

or anyone who loves this crazy sport, competing in the Network Q RAC Rally is the ultimate thrill.

So when I was asked to join one. I took only a couple of seconds to give a resounding yes—even though I had never met the man who asked the question and I hadn't competed for almost eight years.

The man I said "yes" to.

The man I said "yes" to, Barry Strong, has quite a pedigree in rallying with six motor club association championship titles to his credit and over 100 class wins.

I could see that I had my work cut out to match his pace, so out came the rally navigator manuals, which became compulsory bedtime reading. Barry, an area business manager for Proton, and I faced a massive amount of preparation before driving on to the start ramp tomorrow.

As first-timers we were in at the deep end. And our service crew, specially selected Proton employees, have had no previous experience of rallying. Barry who lives in



Three novices: Barry Strong, Claire Bowen and Proton

Wrotham near Sevenoaks, burnt the midnight oil to prepare our 1600cc Proton Compact, a car that has never been rallied in Europe before and had to be specially prepared before being accepted as a competitive vehicle.

While Barry worked on the car I had another mission — to get fit. The RAC Rally is a gruelling event and fitness equals better concentration and more stamina. I also had to pass a stress-related heart-fitness test.

October saw our first major setback as our entry was rejected, but a few days later we were placed on the reserve list. Then came the call one Friday that we had made it on to the competitors list.

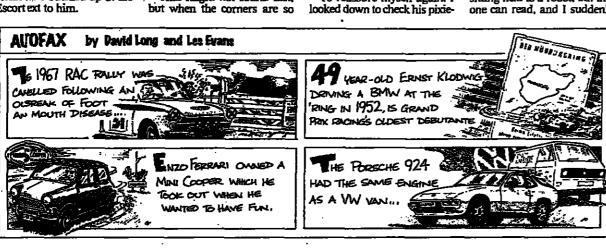
It has been a long hard slog getting here and the more we know about the event the more concerned we become. I'm really apprehensive. This is my first attempt at rallying in a front-wheel-drive car but I expect I'll be OK at the end of the first stage," says Barry.

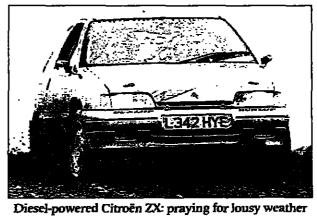
of the first stage," says Barry.

I might just take a little longer to get into the swing of it. But one thing is certain. For both of us. Sunday morning in Cheltenham will be the realisation of our dreams.

If there were a prize for economy in the RAC Rally then the Citroën ZX driven by Nigel Griffiths and Neil Jones would be odds-on favourite. Its 1.9-litre diesel engine is the first to power an entry in the event's 35-year history. The team is praying for

the worst possible weather, which would bring out the best in the car. Sponsored by Greenergy, the specialist clean diesel fuel suppliers, the car returns an astonishing 26mpg even in the most earnest competition.







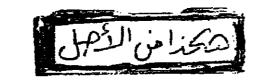
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INHERITANCE 64

How will the green Budget affect IHT rules?

WEEKEND

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Limited company, partnership or sole trader?



Over-optimistic house prices are beginning to meet some resistance, says Sara McConnell

Buyers take the upper hand

This year will be remembered by many buyers as the one when they tried to buy a house and failed. Not because they could not afford it but because there

was nothing they wanted to buy. As the housing market recovery gathered pace at the start of the year, frantic housebuyers, particu-larly in London and the South East. fought over homes. Contracts were exchanged in days or even hours rather than weeks. Rising prices, fuelled mainly by lack of supply, persuaded many potential sellers to hold back in the hope of a higher price. Those sellers who did come forward then began to gazump

Amid angry calls for an anti-gazumping law, the Government promised an overhaul of the whole housebuying process in September. Its report next February is expected to be highly critical of the current slow and inefficent system. Only now, as the year ends, are buyers starting to set the pace.

Prospective buyers, particularly in London, are jibbing at overoptimistic asking prices as they feel the pinch of rising interest rates. say housing analysts and agents. At the same time, more sellers are putting their homes on the market, easing the shortage of property which has been mainly responsible for pushing up prices. Matthew Ryali, economist at the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors, says: It's turning into a buyer's market and there should be more

property coming on in 1998."

In its latest quarterly review of the housing market, the Nationwide Building Society says there have been "anecdotal reports of buyer resistance" to higher prices. Buyers can now afford to be choosier and are under less pressure to exchange quickly, partly because there is more choice of property and partly because there is less competition from other

Richard Woolf, of Winkworth, the London estate agent, said: "For the first time in many years we are seeing a greater equilibrium between supply and demand. Al-though the market remains



The W6 bargain that rose £70,000 in six months

ate Arthur snapped up what she now re-🖍 alises was a bargain in March this year when she exchanged contracts on a three-bedroomed house in southwest London. She had an inkling that prices were rising sharply in Fulham when her two-bedroom flat, bought in 1989 for £116,000 was valued at £165-£170,000 last December (Sara McConnell

"I thought we would get about £145,000" said Ms Arthur, who works for an estate agency but who, like most of her colleagues, was taken by surprise by the strong market

buoyant and some record prices

have been achieved, buyers are

generally more thoughtful about

their purchases and more sensitive

Such sentiments mark

seachange in the housing market since the beginning of 1997. After six years in the doldrums, prices

started to rise at the end of last year,

forcing analysts such as the Halifax

to review their predictions for 1997

upward from 7 per cent to 8 per

to overpricing".

surge. When she sold the flat unexpectedly quickly for £165,000 in February she began to get anxious because she had nowhere to go. She was forced to rent, fortunately finding an unfurnished home through contacts. Ms Arthur had decided to target the Crab-

tree conservation area, on the boundary between Hammersmith and Fulham, where bargains could still be had because most of the roads have the less desirable W6 Hammersmith postcode. Rising prices and a shortage of property in Fulham have been forcing many buyers to spread their net over a

causing "ripple effects" in unlikely

areas such as Tooting and Hack-

ney. In Battersea, the price of a one bedroom flat rose 30 per cent in three months while the price of a

four-bedroom house rose 70 per

cent in three years, said Winkworth More sellers started to

flex their muscles by gazumping

buyers and accepting higher offers.

cent. Estate agents were caught by surprise and rapidly sold any

decent property on their books.

Jeremy Duncan, of Raffety

Buckland, in High Wycombe said:

"It was as if someone had pulled a

switch. Everything took off between

few months, fuelled by demand

from overseas buyers and cash

buyers clutching hundreds of thou-

November and December". Sharply rising prices in London captured headlines over the next

She had one abortive attempt to put in an offer on an Edwardian house that needed much work. The property attracted so much demand that the agent demanded sealed bids. Luckily she almost immediately found another similar property that had come on to the market for £190,000. It needed work and the seller, who was overseas, was prepared to take £188,000, Since she exchanged in May, she has spent £25,000 on a new roof over an extension and other repairs but the property is

sands of pounds in City bonuses. a practice which revived unwel-Buyers who could not afford the come memories of the late 1980s. choicest areas moved further out

The general election in May registered scarcely a blip, as the market powered on Gordon Brown's first Budget in July gener-ating rumours about the abolition of mortgage interest tax relief and rises in stamp duty brought a rush of activity the weekend before as people tried to exchange contracts

to avoid higher taxes. But critics sceptical of press

out that the number of transactions was still well down on levels in the late 1980s and that rises were being pushed upwards almost solely because of a shortage of property rather than because more people were buying. According to the Halifax. 1.3 million homes have so far changed hands this year, well down on the 1.6 million expected in a normal year. At the peak of the 1988 boom. 2.2 million transactions

were recorded. Competition between buyers also prime properties, particularly family homes. Studios, one-bedroomed flats and shoddy 1980s conversions languished unsold while the firsttime buyers, who once would have bought them, were able to leapfrog to larger flats on the back of some of the cheapest mortgage money since the mid 1960s. In High Wycombe, young families are looking for three-bedroom semi-detached houses selling for between £80,000 and £100,000, said Mr Duncan.

nly in the latter part of the year are there signs that first time buyers are turning back to flats as the cost of mortgage money rises. During this year, the average percentage of net income first-time buyers spend on mortgage repayments has crept up from 30 per cent to 35 per cent. Growing numbers of buyers investing in property to rent has also improved the market for flats, say

The recovery outside London was, and still is, patchy. Some areas including the South East, the South West, East Anglia and the West Midlands have seen some of the best growth, said Mr Ryall. By contrast, the North West and North East and Wales have seen prices remain relatively static. Nationwide reported underlying rises of just 1.3 per cent in Wales in the third quarter of last year compared with 5.3 per cent in Greater London. Between the third quarter of 1996 and the third quarter of 1997, house prices across the UK rose by 12 per cent, while in Greater London the rise was 30 per cent.

Prices may surge 11% next year

N ext year could see house prices across the country rise up to 11 per cent on average as the cost of borrowing falls and more sellers put their homes on the market, some housing analysts said this week. But others were more cautious, suggesting rises of only 5-7 per cent. Ed Stanfield, UK economist

at SBC Warburg, feels prices will end the year 9.5 per cent up on the end of 1996 and fin-ish 1998 II per cent up on this year. He said: "We expect prices to carry on rising. They still have some way to get back to mid-1980s levels". Almost for the first time since the market began to turn, regions outside London and the South East will start to see

higher prices, he said. Rising prices will continue to free more people from the negative equity trap, fuelling more activity. Mr Stanfield thinks mortgage rates will fall sharply in the second half of next year, encouraging more buyers into the market. There have been five interest rate rises this year since the general election in May, pushing average mortgage rates up 1.5 per cent. By next summer, they could be I per cent lower.

The Nationwide is also optimistic about next year, saying: "confidence remains high, reflecting a strong em-ployment market and solid growth in incomes." But it believes prices could rise just 7 per cent over 1998, against a 12 per cent third quarter year on year rise. It says buyer resistance will choke off some of the excesses of the London market, where some areas have seen 40 per cent rises.

Halifax is more cautious, forecasting prices will rise by no more than 6 per cent over 1998 after ending this year 6 per cent up on last year.

SARA MCCONNELL

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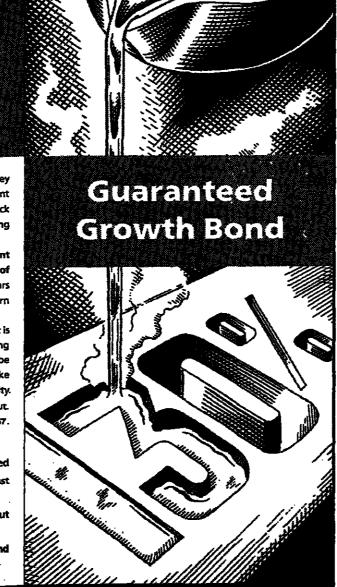
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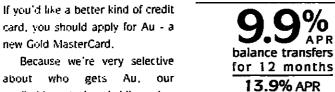
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Rights issues and shareholders' rights

here is no link, causal, moral or otherwise, between the staggering E3.1 billion that a collection of bright financial brains and their work were valued at on Wednesday and the investigation announced into the rights issue gravy train on Thursday. It is merely one of those pleasant coincidences that occasionally crop up to add

to the gaiety of life. On Wednesday Mercury Asset Management, arguably our best money manager, was sold to an American for about £3 billion more than the value of the buildings, desks and screens that its highly paid staff use to conduct their business. On Thursday John Bridgeman, Director-General of Fair Trading, ordered a Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry into the fees that institutions such as Mercury earn, as a right, whenever companies seek to raise fresh capital on the stock market by ssuing new shares.

Mercury does not see much of its profits, £171 million before tax last inancial year, from such fees. But the fund manager was sufficiently moved to slip out, largely unnoticed, a defence of the system as it stands as "the cheapest

system of fundraising in the world".

This system allows a flat 2 per cent of the amount of fresh capital being raised in a rights issue to stick to the fingers of those City bodies that make it happen. 0.5 per cent goes to the investment bank and half that amount to the stockbroker. 1.25 per cent is paid to those institutions that underwrite the issue, pledging that they will take the shares in the last resort if existing shareholders, for whatever reason, decide to cold-shoulder them.

Underwriting is needed because of the length of time a rights issue takes to arrange. Existing shareholders must be contacted and given time to make up



their minds. During those weeks the market could fall dramatically. Underwriting provides insurance for the company that the money will be there.

No one likes paying for insurance. and it is tempting to think, when fees are paid year after year but no claim is made, the money is wasted. This is a fallacy, of course - ask anyone who has been burgled and been under-insured.

Underwriting has been under attack for years, mainly from big American investment houses that prefer their system of book-building, whereby new shares are simply auctioned to the highest bidders. Any attack on a guaranteed -almost - form of income inevitably generates enormous amounts of humbug.

The Americans claim their system is cheaper. This is questionable. City tradi-tionalists such as Mercury say the current regime protects smaller investors by preserving pre-emption rights, the ability of existing investors to maintain control of the company by ensuring that any fresh equity is offered to them first. One is entitled to be cynical when big institutions purport to stand up for the rights of the smaller shareholder. Some smaller companies claim they

are paying too much for fresh capital. Oddly enough, even though they have had the option for some time now of requiring the City to tender for the work, individual institutions setting the rate at which they will take on the underwriting, few have insisted on it.

There are probably two reasons. One, it is not the chairman's money, it is the company's - no skin off his nose if the advisers are paid over the odds. Two, if you start to allow the City to distinguish between individual share issues, some will indeed cost less. Some will cost more, though, if the shares are seen as a higher risk — for example, if the issue is part of a financial rescue. Go back to the insurance aspect — should we all pay roughly the same rate, or do some of us pay more than others?

o the MMC will have to examine all this. My betting would be that a couple of years down the line the underwriting system will still be the same, with perhaps a little more competitive tendering than we have seen in the past. Two per cent is clearly too much for a blue-chip issue that is almost certain to be taken up, even if one such, BP2

in 1987, did indeed flop.
It is not clear what the MMC can do if companies are prepared to pay the current rate, and most clearly are. The good news is that this is probably the best outcome.

But there is one improvement that could be made. At the moment the company's investment bank is usually the lead underwriter as well. This creates an obvious incentive for the bank to put pressure on the company to do things the traditional way, and safeguard its fees. Get rid of that conflict, and it will be easier to decide if there is genuine appetite for change.

AFTER our article last week How UK may end on the implications of the single currency for savers and mortgage borrowers, readers up subsidising asked what the state pension liabilities of the other Euroean states could mean for UK taxpayers. We address the issue of whether we will be **Euro pensioners** footing the bill for the elderly of other member states.

State pension outlays account for about 5 per cent of Taxpayers in the UK ould lose out if joining a UK gross domestic product (GDP) but at the other exsingle European currency means supporting untreme Italy devotes 14 per cent (twice the EU average), and by funded pension schemes in other EMU states. Apart from 2020 the number of Italian the UK, only the Irish Repubpensioners is expected to lic and The Netherlands fund equal the total workforce. their long-term pension liabil-A report from the House of ities. Every other EU country Commons Social Security

faces spiralling outlays as Europe's population ages. Committee found that the UK could end up supporting our partners' underfunded pen-"It's no problem in the UK," explains Paul Johnson, depusion schemes, but Mr Johnson ty director of the Institute of is not sure such support would Fiscal Studies. "Our state necessarily put up our tax bill. Instead, Mr Johnson forepension is pretty mean and ees governments such as we've got slightly less ageing Italy's borrowing to meet their to come, but basically our pensions are tied to equity pension obligations. He says: "While this would not raise

rates across the euro bloc." Borrowing costs would then rise, dampening business and consumer confidence - the opposite of what is supposed to happen with a single cur-rency. EMU members are nominally harred under the stability pact from borrowing above strict limits laid down in the Maastricht treaty.

> aastricht also makes it clear that EMU countries will not be liable to bail out their partners from commitments such as pensions provision. But analysts, such as An, drew Dawrant, who leads

research at the National Assotaxes it would force up interest remains sceptical. He expects

governments to be forced by social and political pressures to put obligations to their pensioners before any under-takings to Brussels. "Maastricht borrowing limits will be widely circumvented in practice; the Italians and probably the French will issue debt on a scale that will send interest rates soaring. Ultimately Europe collectively will pay their pension bills and Britain will get the short end of the stick." Homebuyers would be

Alternatively, Mr Johnson sees governments with pension troubles pleading to Brussels that if they are not allowed to borrow, then taxes must be raised centrally. This may not impose a heavier burden on the UK taxpayer, it might simply mean a bigger proportion of existing tax revenue being siphoned off from London to Brussels. But that would still mean less public money being spent in the UK, to subsidise pension-

DAVID RUDNICK

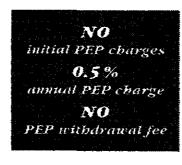
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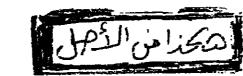
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Stakeholder delay is unforgiveable

ur highly imperfect pension system cannot be reformed Prime Time overnight. But the delays in announcing firm proposals for the ME VEHICLE stakeholder pension are beginning to suggest more than just a desire for proper deliberation.

This week ministers called for more consultation on the stakeholder pension, supposedly the central plank of the Government's pension policy. Since anyone involved in pensions has already made lengthy submissions on this subject, it seems

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workers not covered by company schemes (see page 64).

The reason why the Government is keeping us in suspense would seem

strange that we are not closer to a set

of rules. We are told that stakeholder

pensions will possess every fiscal

virtue, being low-cost, flexible and

secure, but we still have no idea of

exactly how they will improve the retirement lot of the millions of



COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

to be its sensitivity on two issues: compulsion and Serps. There is widespread support for obliging workers to contribute a certain percentage of their income to stakeholder pensions, so ensuring a reasonable retirement income. But John Denham, Pensions Minister, merely cal-

led for more debate on compulsion. Presumably he is reluctant to reveal that a contribution of 10 per cent of earnings is seen as a desirable figure. Obviously he fears the cries of "backdoor taxation" that would arise at such a suggestion. Maybe he is also wary about announcing a bonanza for his pinstripe pals. Compulsion could mean an extra £10 billion a year for the City to manage, a

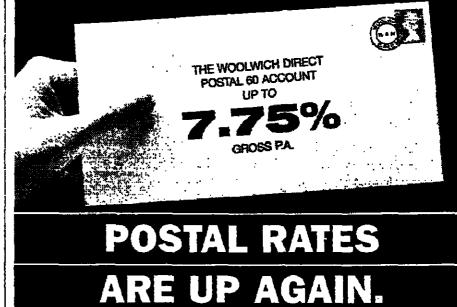
Stakeholder pensions should logically spell the end of Serps, the additional state scheme for those in jobs without pensions, a Seventies relic with no retro appeal. Here again, Mr Denham preferred not to be specific. But millions currently rely on Serps, Their benefits have

already been twice decreased. If the scheme were discontinued, what future protection would they enjoy?

Ministers should not be afraid of the awkward fact about pensions: a decent existence at 70 requires some sacrifice of lifestyle at 40.

Cold from the fridge

Private-client brokers are whining about the new Sets trading system. They say that its morning sickness puts investors at a disadvantage. making the spread, the difference between the buying and selling prices of shares, unacceptably wide (see page 63). Their complaints are justified. But the fluster at some firms arises not so much from concern for their clients but from unwillingness to take on the extra risk to themselves that the system involves. While this continues, ask about the spread before you deal.



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Under fire and uncovered

housands of tourists evacuated from Egypt this week will not be able to claim on their travel insurance policies for having their holiday cut short. The massacre at Luxor has exposed a loophole in travel insurance policies. As the tragedy was an act of terrorism, holidaymakers flown back this week will not be able to claim under curtailment or

Holidaymakers not only

Susan Emmett on a loophole that allows insurers

for personal accident and medical emergencies.

Vic Rance of the Association of British Insurers said: "Most insurance companies have a clause excluding terrorism. Having said that, if somebody was injured in this attack insurers will be more helpful and pay for the medical treatment but are unlikely to pay for curtailment.*

Unless the Foreign Office specifies that a country must be avoided, insurance companies are free to cover travellers. So far the Foreign Office has only "strongly advised" avoiding Luxor.

Only one major travel insur-

ing cancellation and curtail-

None of the company's 15 customers visiting Egypt has decided to return on the special flights and the insurers will have to pay for their full accommodation and flight back. So far it has been estimated that this will cost the company at least £10,000.

around the wording and will pay our for curtailment of holiday. The company will continue to provide full cover for holidaymakers who remained in Egypt but those now buying travel insurance will not be covered for curtail-

ment or cancellation. Julie Philpott, marketing director at Columbus, said: Whenever anything like this has happened before, we have worked around the terms of the policy. In circumstances like these it is responsible to look after our customers."

Holidaymakers will be re-funded some of their costs depending how long they had been in Egypt. First Choice, the tour opera tor used by three of the murdered Britons, brought back 115 customers, It will not be paying compensation but will refund holidaymakers pro-rata for the days lost. However, Airtours greeted its 351 customers in the airport

with vouchers towards a holi-

day within 12 months.

Major tour operators have

also made an exception and

have not only arranged flights

back but refunded some of the

cost of the holiday. Thomson,

Britain's biggest tour operator, brought back 1,346 customers

this week and cancelled opera-

tions for the rest of the month.

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to avoid a payout in cases like the Luxor massacre make an exception for claims the event of terrorism, includhas found a way of working

cancellation.

lose the money spent on pre-paid accommodation but any other part of the tour. Even if the tour operator arranges flights home, policyholders are not refunded the cost of insurance - usually around £25 to £30 for adults for a fortnight in Europe. Most travel insurance poli-

cies have a clause excluding claims arising from "war, invasion, act of foreign enemy, hostilities, civil war, rebellion, revolution, insurrection or military or usurped power". Home & Overseas, the in-

surer that provides cover for the customers of Thomas Cook and Thomson, is sticking firmly to this clause. Insurance companies are only likely to

Tourists who do not return on the emergency flights will have to make their own arrangements and as insurance policies are unlikely to cover these costs, they will have to foot the bill themselves. er, WorldCover Direct, does not include a "terrorism clause" and gives full cover in

ment. The company scrapped the clause last year after a series of Basque terrorist bombings in Spain. Jonathan Biles, managing

director of WorldCover Direct, said: "We see terrorism as a normal part of the risks associated with travelling around the world and you have to take it into consideration. These attacks are a terrible thing to happen to our customers and it is not fair to just leave them out there. Statistically it does not happen that often."

However, some insurers are making an exception in this case and waiving the clause. Columbus Travel Insurance

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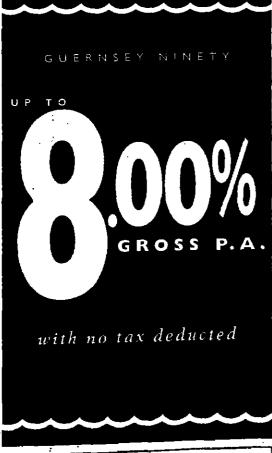
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will find hard to resist.

The Temple of Queen Hatshepsut at Luxor where 58 tourists were massacred this week



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To float or not to float?

Demutualisation is an ugly word but has benefited millions

of people. Or has it?

Caroline Merrell looks at the pros and cons

utuality may be a centuries-old concept. But until the middle of this decade it was, at best, a vague notion, somehow suring but little understood. Savers, borrowers and and policyholders were blissfully unaware of whether the financial institution they had their money with was a mutual or a not. Few realised that they were the true owners of these organisations. But today, the concept of mutuality has become very important for many, when deciding where to put cash.

The stock market flotations of the formerly mutual Alliance & Leicester. Woolwich, Halifax, Norwich Union and Northern Rock, together with the takeovers of the Bristol & West and National & Provincial, have released £39 billion in cash and shares into the economy — equivalent to £1,700 for every adult in Britain.

Yet despite the obvious "feel-good" factor generated by the release of the money into the economy, companies are still convinced that remaining mutual is the best way forward for their customers. Here The Times weighs up the arguments for and gainst mutuality.

FOR MUTUALITY: Some of the building societies that wish to retain their traditional status are handing back some of the benefits to customers in the form of higher savings rates and lower mortgage rates.

The societies most vocally in favour of mutuality include the Nationwide, Bradford & Bingley and Britannia. The B&B analysed how much astomer could save by taking out a B&B discounted mortgage. At the end of the discounted period, the borrower would move to a variable rate. Over a six-year period, a customer would pay up to 4 per cent less on a £50,000 mortgage with the B&B than on an equivalent loan with the Halifax — a saving of more than £2,000, larger

than than the average windfall. On the savings side, according to research carried out by Which? the inutual building societies pay 0.3 per cent more interest than their converting counterparts. Research from the Bradford & Bingley shows that its instant access account pays 0.75 per cent more interest than the average instant-access acccount.

The life insurance companies claiming an overwhelming commitment to mutuality include Standard Life, Scottish Widows, Scottish Life and Equitable Life. According to Standard Life, mutual companies pay out 2 per cent more than average on personal pensions and endowment savings plans. while floated life insurance companies pay between 3 and 8 per cent less than average.
As Standard Life points out, quoted

companies have to satisfy the needs of both shareholders and policyholders. A spokesman said: "We would argue that 10 per cent of returns on the investment funds of companies that are floated on the stock market have to

be used to pay shareholders."

Standard Life claims that the ex penses charged by mutual life inurance companies are much lower than those at floated companies.

AGAINST MUTUALITY: The flotations of the Halifax, Woolwich, Alliance & Leicester, Northern Rock and Norwich Union immediately enriched nearly a third of the population. About 7.6 million people benefited from Halifax free shares. Some of the beneficiaries had balances so small that they never derive an equal benefit from mutuality packages.

The vast majority of shareholders benefited from a basic distribution of 200 shares, worth approximately E1,400. A Nationwide borrower would save only £1,400 on a £50,900 mortgage over a period of more than ten years. If the Halifax shareholder chose to hold on to the shares rather than sell them immediately the £1,400 windfall would have been worth £1,566 at its peak and £1,398 at yesterday's price.

According to the Bradford & Bingley, a £10,000 investment with the society would earn £75 more interest a bank. It would take 22 years to make up the £1,400 windfall earned by the

majority of members of the Halifax. However, the case is not as clear cut for insurance companies. Most of the members of the Norwich Union received shares worth £870 to £1,700. However, mutuals would pay out more in bonuses on their life policies.

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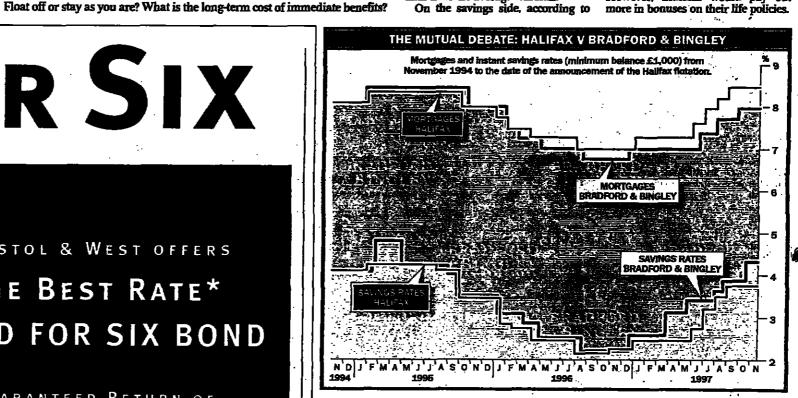
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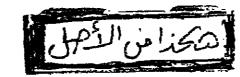
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How to keep inflation on your side

ithough inflation as a head-line grabber has taken a low profile in recent years, it is still out there, a fact illustrated by government figures released last week that showed retail prices were up by 3.7 per cent in the year to October 31. It was the highest inflation rate for two years and up slightly from the 3.6 per cent in the 12 months to September 30.

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The figures were only marginally worse than economists expected, but they were enough to change predictions, for the foresecable future, of bank base rates. City experts now say that rates will be between 7.75 and 8 per cent by next summer, compared with the current 7.25 per cent.

THE BAD NEWS

Inflation is calculated through the retail prices index, which is a basket of around 650 everyday goods which you might be expected to buy on a regular basis.

However, the major impact for most people in an inflationary economy is a rise in mortgage interest rates. The Bank of England tries to dampen consumer spending by raising interest rates, rising inflation almost certainly making it more expensive to

borrow money. For most people, the biggest single monthly bill they have to meet is to cover the cost of their home loan. When the Bank of England decides it must increase interest rates to cool the economy down, mortgage payers are likely

With every 1 per cent rise in the mortgage rate costing a homeowner with a £60,000 interest-only mortgage an extra £46 a month. people trying hard to pay for a roof over their heads soon start feeling the effects of anti-inflationary government policy.

It is not only homeowners who pay. Financial institutions peg the rate at which they charge customers for borrowing money to the Bank of England base rate, so whether it is a large blue-chip company needing unillions of pounds to finance a project, or a building society customer taking out a modest loan to buy a car,

means the cost of borrowing rises.

THE GOOD NEWS

Every cloud has a silver lining and if you have paid off your mortgage and other loans and have money sitting in bank and building society deposit accounts, then inflation is good news.

Financial institutions need to strike a balance on the interest rates they charge for loans and pay on savings. When the cost of borrowing increases, because in-flation has forced bank base rates up, then the interest you earn on savings should also increase.

HOW TO REACT

When inflation is relatively low, which despite recent rises is still the case in the UK today, it is important to look closely at your investments. Unless the rate of return is well above market aver-

prices are reducing the value of vour savings.

John Givens weighs up the enemy, takes evasive action, and listens to the forecasts of the experts

According to Roddy Kohn of Kohn Cougar, the Bristol investment adviser, people with money sitting in low interest deposit accounts need to rethink their strategy. He said: "Bank and building society deposit accounts are offering low interest rates at the moment, which means that many people are seeing the value of their funds being devalued

almost on a daily basis. This is particularly true of retired people who rely on income from savings to live on, because if their capital remains the same, in

real terms its spending power is falling as inflation rises."

Mr Kohn believes the official government inflation figures can mislead the public, who instead should be looking at the effects of "real" inflation. He said: "The retail prices index is an average of the price movements of a basket of goods containing hundreds of items, but if you are spending the

majority of your income on the 20 per cent of these items which have shown the biggest price rises, then the real effect on the pound in

your pocket is very different. "For example, a litre of petroi has gone up by between 10 and 15 per cent since the election, well above the official rate of inflation, and the same could be said of

value of investments, funds need to be placed into equities and index-linked products like National Savings Certificates. "Investors should always look

He believes that to protect the

to have a balanced portfolio of equities, gilts and cash and buying into index-linked investments at least gives you a chance of your funds keeping ahead of inflation." The current tranche of Index-

linked National Savings Certificates pays tax-free income of 25 per cent, plus the prevailing underlying rate of inflation. You must keep them for five years or face redemption penalties. Likewise, you can buy index-linked gilts -- government-backed securi-ties, which give an income and return your capital at a predetermined date in the future.

DON'T PANIC

The Bank of England's method of calculating inflation is often considered controversial because one of the two main indexes includes mortgage interest costs and another excludes them.

The index that shows price rises, including mortgages, is known as the headline rate of inflation and the figure which ignores home loans the underlying rate.

To get an idea of how mortgage rates impact on inflation, the headline rate announced on Wednesday of 3.7 per cent is almost a full I per cent higher than the underlying rate of 2.8 per cent. The difference can confuse. Roger Bootle, chief economist of the HSBC Group and author of The

including mortgage interest payments in the inflation indexes is wrong. He said: "Mortgage payments might be the biggest monthly commitment for many people, but for many others it is not, especially those who are retired and have paid off their mortgage and have savings on

The headline rate of inflation does not accurately reflect how prices are performing in the shops and the underlying rate gives a much truer measure of what is

THE OUTLOOK

Mr Bootle believes the recent rise in inflation is part of a short-term trend which will reverse itself in the next year. "I expect the headline rate of inflation to rise from the current level of 3.7 per cent to around 4 per cent by the spring of 1998 before falling to 2.5 per cent by the end of the year, and the underlying rate to stay much the same until next spring before falling to around 2.25 per

When mother is gone

Caroline Merrell

on investments

for children where the heart of the

family is missing

ith Christmas only a month a way, the time might be V time might be right to consider putting some money aside for children, even if they belong to someone else. Louisa Puttock, of Bournemouth, whose friend Elsa Baldock died leaving three children, aged five, seven and ten, wants to invest £1,000 for each

Financial advisers give warning against setting up a trust for the children, pointing out that costs of forming such a vehicle can outweigh the advantages. Under trust arrangements, the person giving the money can keep control over where it ends up. Chris Wicks, of Kidson Impey Scott Lang, the financial adviser. said: "A trust means that you can alter who you want to give the money to, if one of the children suddenly becomes

He says that forming a trust could cost £250, a big slice of the gift. Instead, Mr Wicks and other advisers recommend National Savings as one low-risk way to give children

National Savings offers a five-year fixed-rate Children's Bond currently paying 6.75 per say that the only risk is that interest rates rise above the 6.75 per cent fix. The maximum that can be invested in the bond is £1.000. Economists believe that interest rates may go a little higher, which could disadvantage those locked into this product. After five years, the money could be invested in another set of savings bonds.

Other low-risk products include children's accounts offered by many banks and building societies. The Birmingham Midshires offers an instant-access account paying 6.75 per cent interest, and the Britannia offers an instantaccess account paying 7.25 per cent. NatWest has a five-year savings bond with a minimum



investment of £1,000 and 7.25 per cent fixed interest, paid tax free upon maturity.

Because the children are 13, 11 and eight years from majority. advisers say it is possible to take a little more risk with the money. On the whole, unit trusts are the investment vehicle favoured, although Mr Wicks would consider a ten-year savings plan with Tunbridge Well pointing out that the eldest child would have to wait until age 20 before it matured.

Dani Glover, an adviser

Friendly societies' savings plans benefit from tax relief on the investment, and, because lump sump at majurity is also

tax free. Mr Wicks says buyers should study the charges.

Amanda Davidson, of Holden Meehan, the adviser, recommends unit trusts. These invest in a range of shares. She says the duration of the investment permits more risk. "I would put 50 per cent of the money in the UK, with the rest in an international fund," she said.

> with Fiona Price & Partners, sees ethical investments as an option. These avoid investing in companies linked to gambling, tobacco or arms. She points to Family Assurance's United Charities Ethical fund. She says that one advantage of this fund, which has a 6 per

cent initial charge and a 1.1 per cent annual charge, is that it comes packaged with a "bare trust" - a trust under which the children could be named as beneficiaries. The trust is no

extra cost.

Mr Wicks recommends internationally diversified trusts. These may be volatile, but, over long periods, can outperform other investments. "I recommend international funds from Guinness Flight. Pidelity and Mercury." he

Although children cannot hold the trusts, they can be nominated by their benefac-tor, So, any income drawn is

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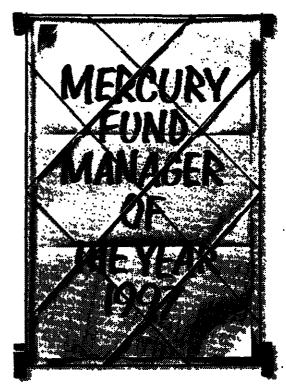
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Hazel Spink continues our series on the best way to invest a large sum

blue chip and smaller com-panies, is surtable. This fund

rose 100.3 per cent over three

years to October 1. Similarly,

Mercury Recovery Unit Trust

might be considered. This

trust rose 95.07 per cent over

the benefits of collective invest-

ment schemes, investors need

to decide whether to invest in

unit trusts, investment trusts

trusts have gone out of favour

with investors and many are

currently trading at a signifi-

cant discount to net asset

Investment trusts are them-

selves companies that invest in.

other companies to maximise

returns for their shareholders

or investors. The share price is

dictated not only by the perfor-

mance of the underlying assets

but also by the level of demand

for the shares. It is entirely

possible for an investment

trust to be performing well yet,

for some reason, it is out of

favour with investors, for the

share price to be less than the

actual value of the underlying

assets. So the share price

might be 75p, while the assets

are actually worth, say, 95p.

or a combination of the two.

Having been convinced of

the same period.

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ust because you see yourself as a medium-risk investor does not mean all your investments have to be medium-risk ones. You can construct a portfolio that contains some very low-risk investments, evened out by some higher-risk ones so that the

overall risk profile is medium. use derivatives to limit the ef-Ian Millward, investment fect of downturns in the stock marketing manager at Chase de market, while offering expo-Vere, said: "History has shown that stock market investments produce the best returns over time in terms of both capital gains and rising income."

Fast cars, country houses and exotic holidays are probably top of most people's list of things to buy should they come into an inheritance. But when reality strikes — which it does for an increasing number of people as £17 billion is bequeathed to friends and

relatives every year — common sense usually prevails and people realise that they must invest their windfall sensibly. Many of these people will not have had large sums of money to invest before and will be uncertain

about the best course of action. Here Weekend Money

advises on the best course of action.

However, investment returns from equity are not guaranteed and, as the well worn adage points out, can go down as well as up. Investing directly in a handful of shares is very risky because there is a strong chance that one of the companies will perform badly or even go belly-up. Collective investment schemes such as unit trusts and investment trusts offer a way of minimising risk of investing in equities. These pool investors'

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money, gaining them access to a wider spread of shares than would otherwise be possible. Some unit trusts are highly speculative, investing in single countries, for example. Others are broadly based and offer relatively low levels of risk. Protective unit trusts that

sure to the upside, are lower risk than normal unit trusts. Again, these do vary. Some offer complete protection of capital, while others put a small proportion of capital at risk in return for the prospect of higher gains. Jonathan Gumpel, investment director of Brook Macdonald Gayer, said for the lower end of the medium-risk spectrum he would recommend protected funds such as the Close Brothers Escalator 95 Fund, which protects 95 per cent of capital and offers exposure to the upside in stock markets. "This is lower risk than a standard growth unit trust and inves-

promium to get the protection."

Index tracking unit trusts, such as those offered by Legal & General and Virgin Direct, are also at the lower end of the risk spectrum and may form a useful part of a portfolio. In a sense, these remove the dilemma of choosing a top performing group because the fund simply goes up and down in line with whichever index it is tracking.

"Investors do need to appreciate, however, that these funds will go down if the index goes down. And, unlike actively managed funds, where the fund manager attempts to limit the downside of falls in the stock market and to capture the upturn, index funds can never outperform the index," said Mr Millward.

Those seeking a mediumrisk investment strategy would be well advised to have the bulk of their investment at least 50 to 60 per cent - in the UK, with the balance invested internationally to achieve diversification.

Michael Owen, a director of Plan Invest, the firm of independent financial advisers based in Macclesfield, said: "I would direct people looking for medium risk towards creating a portfolio of collective investment schemes."

Reliable long-term performers in the income sector include Perpetual High Income Unit Trust, Lazard's Income Trust or GT's Income Trust, he said. Good capital growth funds and Perpetual UK Growth, he added. For the slightly more adventurous, River & Mercantile First Growth Unit Trust, which invests in a mixture of

Investment trusts can trade at a premium, which means that the trust is so popular that the share price is higher than the actual value of the underlying asset. People are prepared to pay over the odds because they want to buy shares in that

When an inheritance arrives, thoughts turn to seven-litre sports cars, holidays and country houses

particular trust. Mr Millward said: "We find many investors, particularly first-time investors, struggle with the concept of investment trusts and are therefore better suited to unit trusts."

Several years ago, invest-ment trusts were hailed as a Mr Owen also has some superior alternative to unit reservations about investment trusts because the charges trusts. "The discounts on some were lower and, arguably, investment trusts are huge performance was better. More and still widening, he caurecently, however, investment

However, some financial

advisers see the current situa-

nity. Mr Gumpel is enthusias-

tic about investment trusts.

"We think now is the time to

buy investment trusts. I realise.

disappointed by the returns

they have seen. But if you buy

in when a trust is at a discount

there is a chance for you to

make gains as the discount

Zero dividend preference shares of split capital invest-

ment trusts offer a very low-

risk form of investing in

shares. Zeros offer a pre-

determined, fixed rate of capi-

narrows."

There is a chance for you to make

gains as the trust discount narrows

outset. Investors in zeros have first call on the assets when a trust is wound up, so should there be any shortfall in assets, zero dividend preference shareholders would take

priority. It is important to take professional advice before buying zeros because not all those available on the market are the same. Some require less growth in the underlying as-sets to meet the trusts' obliga-

tions to investors than others. Finally, it is worth noting that many unit trusts and investment trusts can be bought, at little or no extra cost, through a personal equity plan (Pep), offering the opportunity to shelter income and future capital gains from tax.

A current favourite with many financial advisers is the Pidelity Triple Performance Pep. This invests in three of Fidelity's existing unit trusts to gain exposure to the UK. Europe and the Far East. Some 50 per cent of the fund is tion as a good buying opportuinvested in Fidelity's Special Situation Trust, 25 per cent is invested in the European that investors who bought invested in the South-East investment trusts several fore, gain exposure to a range of international sectors. Although the Pep's package was only launched in February last year, the underlying trusts all have ten-year track records. Statistics show that £6,000 invested ten years ago in the same fund, in the same proportions, would now be worth £25,087. This represents an annualised growth of 15.4 per cent (offer to bid net income tal growth that is known at the

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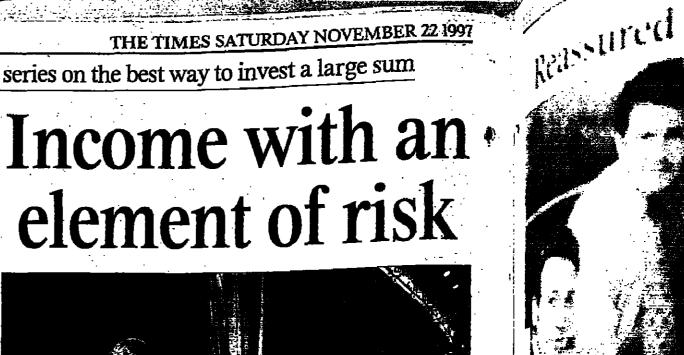
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Protected: Mark Douglass, right, and Garry Schonewald

M ark Douglass and Garry Schonewald had no doubts about how their company would be formed when they set up Conex Data Communications in Sunderland ten

years ago. The two, then both 24 and technical officers with British Telecom, were advised to become a limited company to make sure their liability would be limited to the original capital they put into the business. Although they were

confident their idea to offer computer networking services would be a success, the venture involved buying in expensive supplies on behalf of customers and they decided that they wanted the reassurance of limited liability in the event that the business did not take off.

Like many business start-ups, they bought a £100 limited company off the panies for work.

Although the pair were protected by company law, they need not have worried. After bringing in £26,000 in its first year of trading, Conex Data Communications has become a national organisation employing 33 people and expected to turn over more than £2 million in the year to next March 31. Mr Douglass, 34, who

lives with his wife and two sons in Cleadon, Tyne and Wear, says setting up as a limited concern allowed them to concentrate on establishing the business. He said: "Because we were having to buy hardware and cable for customers before we were naid we were advised to become a limited company from day one. Although we believed our venture would work, it helped to know that we anything did go wrong."

Choose the company you want to keep

faced with when you decide to start a small business is whether to set up as a sole trader, a partnership or as a limited company. The decision you make will affect how you do business and possibly how people you deal with react.

SOLE TRADER

The quickest and easiest way to get started is as a sole trader. You become the proprietor of the business and the technicalities of starting as a self-employed worker are kept to the minimum. You will need to inform the tax office of your status and also register with the VAT authorities if you expect your turnover to be more than £49,000 in the first year of trading.

You will be able to continue to use your existing bank account if you trade in your own name, but you must keep statements to prove to the taxman what your income and outgoings for the business have been.

You are responsible for the financial liabilities of your business. If you cannot cover debts, your house, car and other assets could be lost. You do not have to register your company name, but your own name must appear on company notepaper if you trade under a different title.

PARTNERSHIP

By definition, partnerships are enterprises that exist to make a profit and they are

number of partners needed to set up a partnership is two, while there is no maximum. You are technically selfemployed and you will have to look after your own tax and national insurance.

Like marriages, partnerships can end up in acrimony. For this reason it is vital that a watertight partnership agreement is drawn up that outlines how the company will operate and what happens in the case of disputes or if one of the partners leaves the company or dies. It will cost about £500 to draw up a straightforward agreement. If you want to protect your trading name it will cost you a further £500 to have it trademarked.

LIMITED COMPANY

The biggest single benefit of making your business a limited company is that if the company fails leaving debts, you are only personally liable for the amount of capital you put into the venture in the first place or

promised to introduce in the future.

However, if you have given directors' personal guarantees to a bank, the lender is likely to be hot on your trail. Also, if it can be proved the company continued to trade when it was insolvent and unable to meet its debts, the directors could be held responsible for the extra losses incurred.

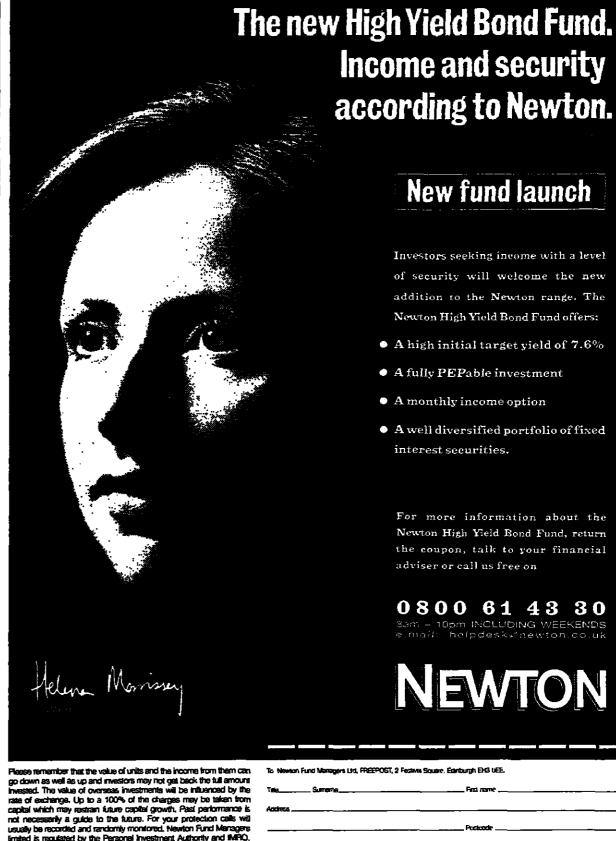
One person can set up a limited company and hold all the shares, although in this case there must be at least one other office bearer, such as a company secretary or treasurer. The biggest problem with setting up a limited company is all the legal paperwork and regulations the company must meet. You can buy a company already incorporated "off the shelf" — typically for £100.

Limited companies must file annual accounts to Companies House. As a director of a limited company you must also hold an annual meeting (AGM) and make sure all shareholders receive a set of accounts and an invitation to the AGM, where they will be eligible to vote.

If you become a limited company your self-employed status changes and you become an employee of the business, paying tax and national insurance on your income — now regarded as a salary.

Profits made by the business after expenses have been deducted will be subject to corporation tax.

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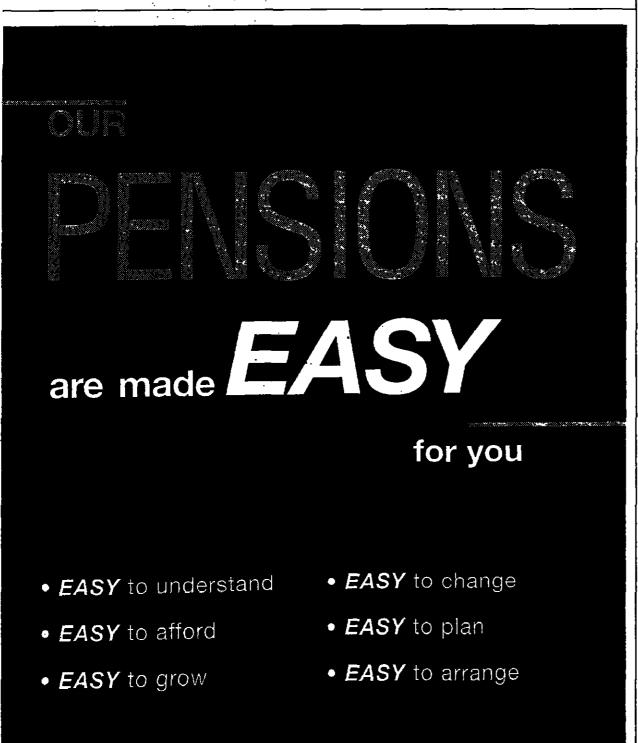
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Paying the price upfront

In the second of a two-part series,

Patrick Collinson looks at the cost of financial advice on a fee basis

uying financial products on a fee rather than

been the mantra of consumer organisations for years. But consumers could be in for a shock when they see the price of fee-based advice — up to £150 an hour.

A Weekend Money survey of four fee-based financial advisers found that the fee for arranging a pension is typically about £500-£600, while that for regular annual or biannual reviews of your finances can exceed £1,000.

There is also a sting from VAT. When a life insurance company pays a salesman commission, there is no VAT charge. But if a client opts for a fee instead of commission, the Inland Revenue levies an extra

But though fees look pricey. the commission alternative is usually worse. The £500-£600 fee for arranging a pension compares well against the typ-ical commission of £1,000plus. Fees can be offset against the commission, or the client can pay the fee and the commission is refunded into the policy, enhancing returns.

The long-held suspicion -

confirmed by the £4 billion pensions mis-selling scandal - that financial salesmen are driven by the prospect of bagging huge commissions rather than concern for the genuine needs of the client has seen a surge in demand for feebased advice in recent years. Roddy Kohn, a financial adviser and member of the Personal Investment Authority board, said: "Fees are there

rightly do not trust financial advisers. Fees give a client peace of mind that commission is not the driving force behind the advice given." But fees are not the panacea

to end mis-selling. Chris-Wicks, a fee-based adviser at Kidson Impey Scott Lang said: Fees tend to occupy the moral high ground but there are pros and cons for both. It's a question of personal preference. Fees do not automatically mean discounted or cheap

Weekend Money asked four firms of independent fee-based advisers to set out the initial consultation fee, hourly fee and the cost for doing a yearly reivew of a client's finances. We also asked each adviser for its fee to arrange a pension for a 35-year-old aiming to retire at 60 and able to afford £200 per month premium.

The result — a fee of between £500-£600 was remarkably similar from one firm to the next in spite of widely varying hourly rates. This suggests consumers should not be guided by the hourly rate alone. All the advisers contacted said they will offer potential clients an estimate of how much the final bill will be for giving advice, around to find the best deal.

Remember that once you agree to take fee-based advice. you are entering a legally enforceable contract. Nearly all the advisers contacted by Weekend Money had chased one or two clients through the small claims courts for unpaid



When clients see the cost of fee-based financial advice they can be in for quite a shock

Chamberlain de Broe Loudon.
Initial consultation: free

Hourly fee: £85 Average annual fee: Depends on number of hours, Typically 12 per year, making £1,020. minimum six hours (£510) plus extra for complex cases. Other information: Unlike other advisers contacted by Weekend Money, Chamberlain de Broe does not charge VAT on its fees. It says it is not VAT-registered and the Inland Revenue regards its charges as

in lieu of commission and therefore not liable for VAT. Contact: 0171-434 4222 Kidson Impey Scott Lang, Manchester

Hourly fee: £135-£145 plus

Initial consultation: free.

VAT for each hour spent with an adviser, £35 an hour for time spent on administrative functions. Average annual fee: £250-£500

plus £50 per month. Final bill redited/debited depending on hours spent on case. Pension arrangement fee:

£500 plus VAT, assuming no existing policy problems.
Other information: Hourly rates vary according to complexity of case. Contact: 0161-236 7733.

Kohn Cougar, Bristol Initial consultation E95 plus

fee: £80-£120 plus Hourly VAT. Average annual fee: Annual

retainer £95 plus VAT. Pension arrangement fee: £250-£600 plus VAT depend-

ing on complexity of case. Other information: Kohn Cou-gar says the initial fee is to reassure clients that any advice is entirely objective. This advice may be that the individual's circumstances do not recommend buying any policy. Contact: 01179-466384.

Robson Rhodes, London Initial consultation free Hourly fee: £150 plus VAT. Junior assistants charged at £75 an hour.

Average annual fee: £1,000 plus VAT for an annual review, though for large clients the fee could be "several thousands". Pension arrangement fee:

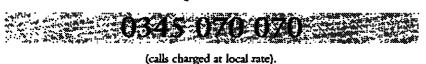
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nvestors need a degree in geogra-phy, maths and financial jargon to L understand most of the guaranteed equity bonds on the market. So it makes a refreshing change to come across a new product that is simple, straightforward and relatively easy for

Alliance & Leicester's Guaranteed European Stockmarket Bond prominvestor's original capital after five years. On top of this, it will pay all the growth in a European index over the same period. The bond will track the FTSE Eurotop 100 index, which follows the performance of Europe's biggest companies. Many of the companies are familiar household names such as Marks & Spencer, Shell, Volvo, L'Oreal and Nestlè.

FTSE Eurotop is listed every day in the Financial Times. Over the past seven years the index has risen by 200 per cent. However, even in the unlikely event that the index repeats this performance, investors will find the growth of their investment limited to 100 per cent. This allows a potential doubling of their investment.

To determine the start and finish points for the bond's growth over the five-year period, Alliance & Leicester



Eurotop's closing price every day for the first and the last six months. This should help to protect investors from

any sharp fluctuations in share prices. The bond goes live on January 5, nearly four weeks after applications close. To compensate investors for any loss of interest in the interim. Alliance & Leicester will pay a 0.5 per cent

November 28. Alliance & Leicester has incorporated running costs into the bond's return so investors need not worry about additional charges. For once, what they see is what they get.

The bond is being sold direct through branches and via telephone applications (0800 102020), and does not pay commission to intermediaries. In spite of this, it has gone down well with independent financial advisers.

Davidson of Holden Meehan, an independent financial adviser based in London, said: "It would make a good entry for someone who is investing in the European market for the first time." She likes the fact that investors are guaranteed the return of their money, and considers the upper growth limit respectable for

ther independent advisers also approve of linking the bond to a European index. Richard Spencer of Brooks Macdonald Gayer, the London independent financial adviser, thinks Europe offers good growth potential over the next five

He says: "Europe is behind us in the economic cycle, so earnings should continue growing. There is a lot of corporate restructuring going on, and scope for mergers and cost-cutting all things which have already happened in the UK and US - which should

improve shareholder value. There are some problems — the unions are stronger, for example, but that should be dissipated over time."
Alliance & Leicester has set a £5,000 minimum and £100.000 maximum for investments in the bond. Investors

who are intending to apply should remember that their money will be committed for five years. Money withdrawn before January

4, 2003, will no longer benefit from the money-back guarantee. Alliance & Leicester will calculate early cash-in values on an individual basis, taking into account investment performance and administration costs. Anyone who few months is not likely to get all their money back. Assuming the index grows at 5 per cent, someone investing £10,000 would just get their money back after one year. £10,500 at the end of the second year, and £11,700 after

four years. Returns from bonds are treated as income and taxed at the basic rate. This tax cannot be reclaimed from the Inland Revenue, making the bond an unsuitable investment for lower or non-tax payers. Higher-rate taxpayers will be liable to pay the difference between the basic rate and the higher

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capital growth may be toregone. Any significant capital value of the fund. Securifies held may have a current value higher than their ultimate maturity value. The tax treatment of PEPs will be subject.

* Based on an offer price of 58.97 p as et 14/11/97, the PEP will have

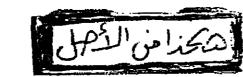
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Patrick Collinson finds contrasting views over a fund's strategy

Is small going to be beautiful again?

switch on the country's equivalent of Match of the Day on Saturday night, the phones start buzzing at Telepizza, a home delivery pizza chain. Pizza is the new passion for Spaniards in Europe's fastest-growing fast-food market.

Telepizza's phenomenal growth from one Madrid takeaway in 1989 to nearly 300 today has seen it overtake Pizza Hut and Burger King and challenge McDonald's for market dominance in Spain.

Guinness Flight, the London investment manager, picks Telepizza as typical of the surt of rapidly-growing small European company that is unknown to British investors but offers enormous potential. Since it was floated last year on the Madrid bourse Telepizza's share price has more than tripled, and stockbrokers still rate it a buy.

Next week Gunness Flight launches two funds for investors wanting a stake in smaller companies outside of the UK. The Global Smaller Companies fund will build a portfolio of smaller company shares across the world, while the **European Smaller Companies** fund will invest in small and mid-sized companies in Europe outside of the UK.

Investing in smaller companies is currently the vogue among investment managers. Fidelity Investments is heavily promoting its smaller company trusts and small company specialist M&G believes now is the right time to get back into small companies.

The reason is that during the great bull run that swept world stock markets until the recent turmoil, smaller companies lagged behind as giant stocks such as Glaxo Wellcome and HSBC roared away.

A large gap opened between the valuations of big blue chip companies and smaller company shares, which investment managers now expect will close. The first evidence has come from the recent stock market mayhem, in which smaller company stocks have generally remained firm while blue chips have suffered.

Andrew Couch Gunness Flight's head of equities, said: "Now is a great environment of big compfor smaller companies. Longterm low inflation, low interes rates and a low cost of capital benefit smaller companies all round the world. They have already produced the profits growth, but we've not yet seen it in the share performance."

Simon Davies, an investment adviser at Berry Asset Management in Chelsea, says the timing is excellent for smaller company investment but only in the UK, Europe and the US, not the Far East or Japan. He said: "The timing, in terms of oure economics, is right. But our view is that things will continue to look very difficult in the Far East."



Even Pamela Anderson's charms could not help Pizza Hut to half the relentless rise of Telepizza

Others are less sure about the strength of the smaller companies argument. Mark Dampier, of Churchill Investments, said: "There's a big but. The argument seems to be that small companies have done badly for the past five years so in the next five years they will ously have been tempted to automatically do better. It's an buy emerging markets funds. oversimplif-

ication. Because of technolis nology, a lot anies can be--small como

very nimbly run operations which keep an eye on costs."

company funds is also a cause of concern. Mr Dampier added: "European smaller companies are as volatile as Hong Kong or even worse. You can bet that when the US fails 10 per cent, Europe will fall much further. You find that smaller companies are either top of the pops or pretty awful."

Mr Davies agrees. He said: "For quite considerable peri-

out of favour. Small company shares tend to move in fits and starts."

A smaller company fund is not the right move for a firsttime investor, says Mr Davies, but it makes a good alternative to anyone who might previ-"If you want

to buy an emerging ... fund, why not buy US smaller companies

buying Brazil? It makes a lot

for the younger, less riskaverse investor who has enough cash to put money aside for the long term. Ste-phen Lansdown, joint managing director of Hargreaves Lansdown, said: "If I was talking to a first-time investor, I doubt if I would recommend with adequate funds and who can look ten years out, then

Is Guinness Flight the right home for an investor wanting to put money into a smaller company fund? Every big investment company offers a UK smaller-company unit trust, though funds specialising out-

side the UK are less common. Mr Davies said: "Guinness Flight has good figures in the US and Asia, but in the UK and Japan they are third and fourth quartile, I like the story on smaller companies, but I do have concerns about Guinness Flight — do they have the perform?"

Hargreaves Lansdown shares similar concerns. Mr Lansdown said: "I wouldn't talk anybody out of buying a Guinness Flight fund, but neither would they be my first choice. They are middle of the road for growth and not as consistently good as Schroders or Perpetual."

Berry Asset Management: ***
Churchill Investments: ***
Hargreaves Lansdown: *** Products graded from * (poor),

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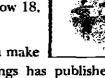
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The Investment Trust Experts

AMP members start counting their cash

Two million members of Australia Mutual Provident (AMP) voted overwhelminglythis week to approve the life insurer's plans to demutualise and float on the Australian and New Zealand stock markets. Thousands of UK members of AMP voted by post before the general meeting in Sydney on Thursday. A total of 171,000 qualifying customers resident in the UK. will now receive an estimated windfall of £2,500 on flotation next May.

The flotation will turn AMP into one of the tenth largest listed companies in Australia. A general meeting and members' vote was held at a concert hall in Darling Harbour, Sydney, on Thursday and 98 per cent of people who voted. voted in favour. The mutual needed a 75 per cent vote in favour in order to press

Only UK residents who hold qualify-

ing policies with AMP UK and London Life, which merged with AMP in 1989, will benefit from windfall shares. Members of Pearl, which is owned by AMP. will not receive shares because Pearl is a proprietary company.

Nor will members of subsidiary companies of London Life. Policyholders with London Life Linked Assurances and London Life Managed Fund will not qualify because they were not given membership at the time of the 1989 merger. This also applies to some AMP subsidiary companies based in Australia.

t a similar general meeting prior to AMP's merger with London Life in 1989, so many members turned up to vote at a hall in the Barbican in London that the meeting broke down and had to be reconvened in the Café Royal The board of AMP recommended

demutualisation last December and a prospectus is now expected to be issued in March or April, followed by a listing in May Each member will receive an average of 500 free shares which will be uoted in Australian dollars. David Davies, deputy managing director of AMP (UK) said the insurer had not made a final decision on whether shares would also be listed on the UK stock market. A

UK listing is expected in 1999.

He added: "We are expecting the shares to be worth the equivalent of £3.99 to £4.70 each, giving members an average £2,500 windfall. We are currently looking into setting up a service to allow people to deal if they wish to sell their shares or buy more. We are still in the process of looking at ways to do this, and the service will be cheap but probably not free."

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Share dealing by phone numbers

UK, investors can carry out automated share dealings by means of a telephone key pad. Charles Schwab (formerly ShareLink) has announced the launch of TouchTone Trader.

Using a PIN, customers can buy and sell shares by inputting stock codes on their telephone key pad. These stock codes cover more than 2.000 London shares, including AIM stocks and investment trusts.

According to Charles Schwab, however frantic the markets, customers will have quick access to their broker. In addition to the dealing, investors can check the balance of account, details of individual holdings, FTSE movements and total portfolio value. Call 0870-601 8888 for more details.

■ As an active investor you will win some and you will lose some. The Investor's Guide to Short-Term Trading & Long-Term Investing believes it holds the secret to winning more often.

According to the book, different strategies are required for short-term trading and long-term investing. The book advises how to understand the

Tor the first time in the fundamentals of each approach, maximise profits, set achievable targets for growth and minimise tax liabilities. In bookshops priced £25 (Pitman Publishing).

> ■ Rather than merely learning from your own trading mistakes, learn from those of others: this is the message of The Mind of a Trader. It explores the trading philosophies, behaviour and tactics of the world's top traders, identifying their successful strategies and mental attitudes. It covers all assets from equities and currencies to commodities. Available in bookshops priced £24.99 (Pitman Publishing).

> ■ A guide to investment information sources for the private investor has been produced by ProShare. The guide summarises the wide range of sources now available, from traditional paperbased information to the latest electronic media, and assesses each product featured for their ease of use and value for money. Available from ProShare (0171 394 5200) priced £5.95 including postage

> > LIZANNE ROSE

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NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121 Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777 Legel & General Bank 0500 111200 Bristol & West 0800 202121	Postal 30 Albion 30 60 Direct Fix for Six	30 day p 30 day p 60 day p 6 month	£10,000 £25,000 £10,000 £5,000	7.85 7.80 7.75 7.75F	Yly Yly ON
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interes
Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650 Yorkshire BS 0800 378836 Principality BS 01222 344188 Hanley Economic BS 0800 838811	Premier+feeder	5 year 5 year 5 year 5 year	29,000 £2,000 £2,500 £1,000	7.85 7.65 7.65 7.60	Yh Yh Yh Yh

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Capital One Bank 0800 669000 Co-operative Bank 0800 109000 Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829100	Visa Advantage Visa MasterCard/Visa	0.64%N 0.64%NC 1.00%	7.90%N 7.90%N 14.00%	Nii Nii £12
£? PERSO	ONAL LOANS E	EST BUYS		
PERSONAL LOANS	APR	Monthly payme		0 for 3yrs insurance
Direct Line 0181 680 9966	12.80%A	£183.75	5	£166.38
Capital One Direct 0800 216252	12.90%	£189.48	3	£166.54

CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS

Minimum

Building Societi Chelsea

0800 291291

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = Introductory rate for a limited period, OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

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7.800 100.13

Source: Money Facis the Monthly Guide to Investment & Montgage Rates (01692 500 677)

149.00

168.50

166.75

156.00

152.00

172.25

140.50

164.75

167.50

154.00

PIBS

coupon

11.625%

13,000%

13.000%

12.125%

11.750%

13.375%

10.750%

12.625%

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PERPETUAL SUBORDINATED BONDS

Alliance & Leic Grp 0990 626262

Birmingham Midshires 9.375%

FIXED RATE

First National

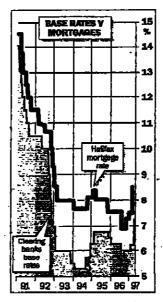
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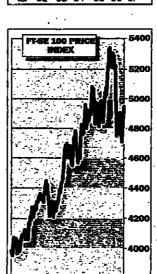
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Chelt & Gloucester

Bradford & Bingley Bradford & Bingley



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ncome Bond* s	6.50	5.20	3.5UE	,000-20,000**		0645 64500
7gst Opt Bond₄	6.75	5.40	4.00	100-10,000	Sdav	0645 64500
14th Issue Cent†≥s					1mth	0645 64500
Xhiidren's Bond†	6.75			25-1,000	111821	0645 64500
Sen Ext Rate	3.51				O-dove	0645 64500
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1th Ind Linkedts	2.75			100-10,000	8day	0645 64500
ensors Bond S3	7.00	5.60	4,20	500-50,000	6002 <u>y</u>	U040 04000

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All figures are the purchase), guaranteed	gross and 5 years	inual ann s, paid m	uity (£100 onthly in a	,000 advance
SINGLE LIFE (level ann)		Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada LifeLevel Standard LifeLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel Scottish WidowsLevel Legal & GeneralLevel		£ 9,105 £ 9,044 £ 9,062 £ 9,100 £ 9,045	£10,200 £10,136 £10,122 £10,120 £10,073	£11,688 £11,564 £11,564 £11,500 £11,367
SINGLE LIFE	Female:	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada LifeLevel PrudemiaiLevel GeneraliLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel Scottish WidowsLevel		£8,367 £8,386 £8,227 £8,306 £8,290	£ 9,222 £ 9,205 £ 9,159 £ 9,067 £ 8,960	£10,422 £10,649 £10,437 £10,176 £ 9,950
JOINT LIFE, 2/3 WIDOWS (level annuity)	Male: Female:	Age 60 Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
GeneraliLevel Sun Lf of CanLevel ProdentialLevel Scottish WidowsLevel Equitable LifeLevel		£7,855 £7,915 £7,901 £7,927 £7,807	£8,512 £8,511 £8,445 £8,424 £8,384	£ 9,412 £ 9,350 £ 9,178 £ 9,091 £ 9,197

%			BØ	ERS
Lender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societ	tles	000 4001-	0.5	DDV discount for
Newbury 01635 43676	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Mansfield 01246 202055	2.20	£25-250k	90	6% discount-6 mth Further dsc apply
Clay Cross 01246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	95	3% discount for 1 year
Banks		·	•	ı yeai
Bnk of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths,

Statistics compiled by Lizanne Rose

for 's "

GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at November 20, 1997

	Raics as at November 20, 1777				
	Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)		
1 Year					
	5,000	AIG Life	6.38		
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75		
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80		
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80		
2 Years					
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.15		
	10.000	Hambro Assured	6.80		
	20,000	Hambro Assured	6.80		
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80		
3 Years					
	1,000	Hambro Assured	6.00		
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30		
	20.000	Hambro Assured	6.75		
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80		
4 Years					
	1.000	Hambro Assured	6.20		
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.15		
5 Years					
	1.000	Hambro Assured	6.15		
	10,000	ITT London & Ed	6.65		
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7.300 100.42 7.770 100.75	1,000 1,000	Yorkshire 0800 378836	4,95	£25-150k	95	3% discount for 1 year
7.730 100.25	10,000	Banks				•
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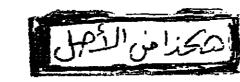
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with 11d	UNIT-LINKED INSUR	
Bld Offer •!- %	Std Offer +/- %	Bid Offer +4
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IT GLOBAL PUND MGMT LTD	Guid Mau30 99.50 - 0.90 Mucayed 78.40 x37.50 -22.40	MaG
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or Prop Buly 475-25 495 U1 Amaged Initial 571-49 491-59 -12-23	The Quays, 101-105 Orderd Road, Unbridge, Midda UBS 11.7. 0:195 200 200	Interest First 450.70 474,40 + 0.60 Managed Fd 988.30 629.70 + 560
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O Box 246, York YOJ IYB 01904 otilisi Je Fonds Jundacion 3340 35 64 43 94	American - 6/74.' 649.81 • 9,70 .	NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE
ningeri 13 to 35 43 + 124-	12:40 13:20 • 9:50	SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds PO Bez 140, Norwick NRJ IPP
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'ताऽ नीर रेनाऽ	186,90 156,30 191 90	195.70 164.50 202.00	• 4.10 • 0.10	Property: Deposit : Mixed :	487,40 333,60 367,30	:::	+ 4.30 + 0.30 + 19.40	
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L SAMUE	LUFE			Equity A 2 Fixed Int A 2	\$37.80 487.40 333.60 767.20 265.80 316.70 237.70 251.10 277.30 1113.10 144.40 381.30 744.40 775.10 785.10	:::	a 7 in	
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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

When three days means eight days

From Mr G.C. Bartram Sir, I read with interest Gavin transferred one cheque per Lumsden's article (The film a day reason cheques take so long, November 15). But what infuriates me is the length of time it takes to credit cash to the recipient's bank account.

My son banks with the Royal Bank of Scotland in one town, but at present lives in another Recently, I paid £250 into the Royal Bank of Scotland in a third town on a Wednesday. I was assured he would be able to withdraw the money two days later on Friday; but on that day he was told it had not been credited to

his account.
On the other hand money withdrawn from an account is debited instantly. It seems that what is sauce for the kitten is not sauce for the cat. Yours faithfully, G. BARTRAM.

From Mr Ken Hartshorne Sir, My personal account is in Glenrothes, my business account is with the Co-Operative Bank Direct, a telephone

banking service. On Monday

Eldon House,

Heighington,

Newton Aycliffe,

November 17, at 2.30 pm, [account to my son's account in Kirkcaldy.

The local cheque clearance time is said to be three working days not counting the day that the cheque arrives in his account. We took that to mean that he would have access to the cash on Friday.

However, I discovered that it would take five working days to transfer the money from my business account which means that it will not arrive in my son's account until next Tuesday, making a total time for the transfer of eight actual days.

Why? Because the Co-op is an English bank. Does it work that way from an English bank branch to the Bank of Scotland in Scotland, wonder?

I did actually mention your article last Saturday citing the Co-op as one of the slowest banks in the cheque transfer league. This seemed not to make any difference. Yours faithfully, KEN HARTSHORNE, Airlie Cottage, East End, Freuchie,

More answers please, Sun Alliance

From Mr Robin Fish Sir. Despite being appalled by your report (How £5,000 rose to just £5,004) about how exorbitant commissions had cut Mr Gerrard's pension investment to a paltry return of 0.01 per cent, I am even more con-

cerned that Royal Sun Alliance's return on the remaining £2,500 was no more than a compound 5.14 per cent rate. Bearing in mind that the traditional return by pension companies is supposed to be

From Mr Gordon C. Smith

Sir, Can you explain the logic in a reply I received from my

bank's Customer Correspond-

ence Centre? I had tried to fax

a letter to my regional office

and, having first been told the number I always used was no

longer in use and then receiv-

ing no answer from the new

number given. I wrote to complain that it was unrealistic

today to make faxing a mess-

Fun with faxes and banks

about 12 per cent compound, 1 would have expected his investment to be worth at least £13,600 after allowing for the

loss of £2,500 in commissions. I believe that Royal Sun Alliance has even more explaining to do before you let this story rest. Yours faithfully, ROBIN FISH, Thomhill,

espondence is now dealt with by our head office. We did not

advise our account holders of

the change in fax numbers be-

cause very few customers use

the facility and those who wish

to normally ring us to obtain the fax number beforehand."

I need hardly add that the

new fax number was not print-

ed at the head nor did my

correspondent give it to me! Yours faithfully, GORDON SMITH; - : :

Sativus House,

27 Balcombe Road Haywards Heath.

It was love at first Pep...

A There ain't a ISA
Savings system in the land
wot I'd swap for me dear ole



From Miss Paola Revello Sir, I have fallen in love ... No, not with the shampoo and not either with the latest sexy tycoon. It's very serious, I've fallen in love . with the Pep. What shall I do? It's such a long-lasting relationship, it is so reliable, trustworthy, even flexible

and I have to say so simple. that kind of simplicity you can just fall over. I am certainly not the only one to feel so strongly about this greatest saving means. We have taken probably some time to trust and understand it, to believe it would give us the op-portunity really to save tax

and grow our capital in complete flexibility. But now we are all convinced and we actually enjoy it. Now comes the big question. Why the Government

wants to put an end to all

this? Is it not in the Government's interest to teach people how to save for their future? Is it not in its interest finally to admit that the Pep gives a great boost to the economy?

Obviously we cannot judge the Isa (individual savings account) as it seems still protected by tight security. But is it really wise even to think about abolishing one good saving system that is proven before even knowing how the next one is going to perform?

Let's then please raise our voices, let's make sure our point of view is heard, before it is too late, before the fate of the Pep will be decided and our saving future heavily compromised. Yours faithfully, PAOLA REVELLO.

137 Roll Gardens,

Gants Hill, Essex.

CGT ALLOWANCES — OCTOBER 1997

The indexed rise for calculating the indexation allowance on assets disposed of in October 1997

- 0,931 0,837 0,749 0,657 0,595 0,544 0,437 - 0.922 0.829 0.735 0.651 0.589 0.538 0.427 1.008 0.919 0.823 0.719 0.649 0.585 0.532 0.420 0.968 0.892 0.799 0.683 0.633 0.567 0.508 0.395 0.954 0.884 0.793 0.675 0.630 0.565 0.502 0.387 0.949 0.880 0.788 0.672 0.631 0.565 0.496 0.382 0.948 0.870 0.790 0.675 0.636 0.567 0.495 0.381 0.947 0.862 0.773 0.670 0.631 0.582 0.478 0.377 0.949-0.853-0.770 0.671 0.623 0.558 0.471 0.368 0.939 0.847 0.759 0.669 0.620 0.550 0.457 0.357 0.930 0.840 0.754 0.683 0.806 0.543 0.450 0.346 0.833 0.836 0.755 0.661 0.601 0.544 0.446 0.343 0.336 0.225 0.176 0.157 0.129 0.092 0.082 0.033 0.327 0.218 0.170 0.149 0.122 0.086 0.057 0.029 0.314 0.214 0.167 0.145 0.119 0.081 0.053 0.026 0.275 0.198 0.149 0.134 0.106 0.070 0.045 0.020 0.284 0.195 0.145 0.130 0.102 0.086 0.043 0.017 0.259 0.189 0.145 0.131 0.102 0.065 0.042 0.013 0.258 0.192 0.149 0.134 0.108 0.070 0.047 0.013 0.245 0.189 0.148 0.129 0.102 0.064 0.042 0.006 0.234 0.185 0.144 0.124 0.100 0.059 0.037 0.001 0.224 0.181 0.140 0.125 0.098 0.065 0.036 0.227 0.176 0.142 0.126 0.098 0.085 0.035

The RI month for disposals by individuals on or after April 6, 1985 (April 1, 1985 to companies) is the morth if which the allowable expenditure was incurred, or March 1982 where the expenditure was incurred before that morth

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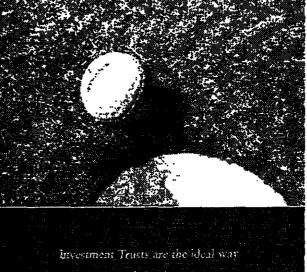
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Ninety years on: a Steiff bear with a chair on which he was photographed in 1907 (£5,000-£7,000)

Clare Stewart says that collectors of all ages still go wild for teddy bears

Bear essentials for buyers

Clarice Cliff pottery or Victorian wildlife paintings may fluctuate according to fashion but, say auctioneers, teddy bear collectors are less fickle. Their devotion is lifelong and unwavering.

With a number of pre-Christmas toy sales coming up at auction houses, it is a busy time of the year for teddy bears. On December 8 Christie's has its fifth annual teddy bear sale and this year is also commemorating the 150th an-niversary of the birth of Margarete Steiff, the founder of the leading German toy and teddy bear maker. Together with vintage Brit-

ish and American bears, the

Christie's sale includes a large number of Steiff bears, Steiff tovs and associated memorabilia. Among these are bears dating from the early days of production in 1903 through to distinguished modern bears. and the interest is worldwide."

"It is a very buoyant market says Leyla Maniera, Christie's teddy bear specialist. Estimates for bears in the December sale range from £100 to £8,000. Among those at the top end is an early Steiff bear,

made in 1904 and in very good condition, suggesting that it has never seen active service as a child's toy. Just a little older is "Jonny", a large white Steiff bear, 28 inches high and dating from 1905.

Despite the high prices that some rare bears can fetch the world record is £110,000 you do not have to be very wealthy to start collecting. "Almost any bear with a maker's label made before 1970 is of interest to collectors,"

said Constance King, a bear

were less fashionable in the Sixties and Seventies so examples of well-made bears of the period are harder to find.

Collectors' interest in bears was first seen in the early 1980s, says Ms King, led initially at least by an interest from gay men in the US, inspired by Evelyn Waugh's novel Brideshead Revisited and Aloysius, the teddy bear companion of Sebastian Flyte.

It is a very buoyant market. Almost any teddy with

a maker's label dating from before 1970 is of interest

style of bear, its condition and origins. Teddy bears as a toy emotional rather than financial attachment. If it is a love of teddy bears that inspires you. then the advice is simple: buy what you like.

But if you wish to balance both interests, the experts say there are some key pitfalls to avoid. Beware the modern limited edition bears, says Constance King, because they are not necessarily a good investment "Often, so-called limited edi-

dancing bear, complete with muzzle, and has an estimate of £5,000 to £7,000, but it could well fetch more.

Yvonne Bentley of Phillips says that other noted German manufacturers include Schoo, Bing, and Gebruder Süssenguth, whose output included Peter Bears. These were made to look rather more like real bears and came with alarming-looking teeth. The idea backfired, however. The bears frightened children and production stopped. Because relatively few were made, Peter Bears now fetch good

English manufacturers are also sought-after, with leading names including Farnell. Chad Valley, Chiltern and Merrythought. British bears are fighting back," says Kerry Taylor at Sotheby's. While prices for these manufacturers have risen strongly, they can still be found for less than many German makes and are a good starting point for novice collectors.

As with almost any other antique, provenance or knowing something of the history of an item adds value. This can take the form of association with a famous person or event. Teddy Edward, for example, fetched £35,000 at auction last year as the bear from Watch with Mother.

7 alue will be added if there is information about the previous owner, whoever the owner was. Among the lots at the Christie's sale is a German bear that is now a little battered, with an eye missing, but with a picture of his original owner, a young girl called Gwen, standing next to the then youthful bear in 1915. His price is estimated

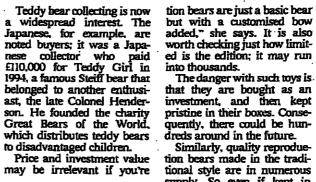
at £150-£200.

Contemporary connections are also valuable. Two limited edition Steiff bears are being auctioned at the Christie's sale in aid of Save the Children. The bears recently sailed around the world on the Save the Children Yacht in the 1996-97 BT Global Challenge Race.

For novice collectors looking for more information, the sale catalogues issued by auction houses can often provide much useful information about different manufacturers and types of antique teddy

Makers such as Merrythought, based in Telford, also have collectors' clubs for enthusiasts, while other sources of information include museums, many of which have doll and toy collections.

Forthcoming sales include: Christie's, December 8 (0171-581 7611); Bonhams, December 11 (0171-393 3900); Phillips, December 16 (0171-629 6602); Sotheby's, May 28 (0171-493



and doll expert, whose book The Century of the Teddy Bear has just been published (Annoted buyers; it was a Japa-nese collector who paid £110,000 for Teddy Girl in tique Collectors Club, £25). Bears made between 1940 and 1970 can still be found for less than £100, says Ms King. 1994, a famous Steiff bear that belonged to another enthusiast, the late Colonel Hender-son. He founded the charity while bears from the 1920s and 1930s are particularly desirable. For these, expect to pay Great Bears of the World, upwards of E700. which distributes teddy bears

Earlier examples, however, may cost thousands of pounds, depending on the

to disadvantaged children.

may be irrelevant if you're

that they are bought as an investment, and then kept pristine in their boxes. Consequently, there could be hun-Similarly, quality reprodue-

tional style are in numerous supply. So even if kept in perfect condition they are un-likely to be rare and therefore sought after in the future. A little more interesting as potential investments are art-

ists' bears. These are handmade bears, dressed in antique or expensive fabrics, and often unique. These could be valuable in the future but only time will tell which makers will be in demand,"

says Ms King.
Older bears, usually taken to mean those dating up until the 1960s, remain the most desirable and most valuable, so much so that finding good bears is increasingly difficult. National and regional auctions of toys and dolls are one place to buy, although buying outside Landon does not necessarily mean lower prices.

Specialist toy and doll dealers can also be found at the many antique fairs around the country, and there are events such as the London International Antique and Artists Dolls, Miniatures and Teddy Bears Fair, which is held five times a year in Kensington Town Hall, London. The next fair is on February 15, with another on April 26 0181-693 5432 for further details).

If you are buying older-bears, good condition counts for as much as a maker's label. Also look for features such as unusual colours that may mean it is a rarer variety bear. Steiff bears are the most desirable, says Leyla Maniera. "They may not be the rarest but they hold their price."

Phillips, the auction house, has a Steiff bear as the centrepiece of its Christmas Toys and Dolls sale on Decem-

Fair opportunity to check up on your antiques

range of both artefacts and dealers under one roof than any town or city can offer in such a concentrated area. This weekend's Fine Art & Antiques Fair at Olympia, West London, is no exception.

British Antique Dealers' Association (Bada).
Potential buyers certainly find it convenient to compare pieces with competitive prices, notably in period furniture.

with 250 exhibitors, many of

whom are members of the

All items on sale have been examined by expert commit-tees to ensure that both the identification and labelling are correct. This iscarried out by Bada members or the London & Provincial Antique Dealers' Association, academ-

As a typical example, a pair of Victorian silver candlesticks which had been converted to take electricity with cut-glass bowls to hold the lamp were rejected - because the bowls were not contemporary.

Many investors like fairs in order to check on the correct date and identification - as well as the current value for insurance purposes — of pieces. Most events will not allow you to take personal antiques in, but take colour photographs of antiques, remembering to take one of the back, particularly for porce-Jain, and noting any marks on silver and ceramics, as well as

Visitors to Olympia should not miss the loan exhibition. Minjatures, engraved 18th-century glass and medals commemorating the secret allegiance to the Jacobite cause. have been lent by Drambuie. A range of outstanding oak chairs from the 15th to 17th

top antiques fair pro- Aberdeen Burgesses of Trade, vides a far greater never lent before, are on show, as is a remarkable 17th-century group of naive portraits of. the Erskine family from the

House of Dun in Scotland. There are many modestly priced pieces suitable for Christmas: silver wine funnels, Stilton scoops, tankards, nutcrackers and lobster picks, alongside exquisite Flemish and German woodcarvings of angels from the 15th century.

One innovation is the "touch tours" organised for the blind and partially sight-ed. Working with the Royal National Institute for the Blind, ten dealers will help such visitors to feel works of art including jewellery, textiles and bronzes.

airs of glass decanters are popular, according to Christine Bridges. A good Regency pair has in-creased from £300 to £500 in 1992 to £500 to £800 and for Victorian from E200 to £300 to £350 to £550 today.

Stylish mahogany side ta-bles have the benefit of being both decorative and useful. A George II card table, circa 1750, is offered by Hallidays of Dorchester-on-Thames for £9,800, up from £6,500 to £7,000 five years ago, according to Tracy Hodges.

Bronzes, particulary eques trian, are a firm market Ted Few, a London specialist, has a bronze statue of King Victor Emmanuel III of Italy on a horse, 27 inches in height. signed and dated 1917 by Walter Winans, the Flemish artist, for £6,500, up from £1,500 to £2,000 a decade ago.

■ The Olympia fair is open from Ham to 7pm today and Ham to 5pm tomorrow.

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ATISTICS

Playing your cards right in £10bn Christmas spree FOR R SPORTS STATE

Barclaycard will launch a campaign next week aimed at capitalising on the all-important pre-Christmas shopping period when consumers are expected to spend a record £10 billion on debit and credit-cards. Card use rises sharply in the

month up to Christmas and retailers will see 70p in every il of the money spent on cards. This year's shopping spree is likely to be £l billion higher than last year, when Barclays registered seven card transactions a second. Barclaycard is launching

what it describes as its "biggest consumer promotion" and is offering cardholders the chance to win back the value of purchases between Monday and Christmas Eve. There is also a cash prize of £100,000. Such sums are relatively

small, however, in comparison with credit card providers' total income. Their margins come from three sources: the Interest levied on borrowings and the processing fee charged to the retailer.

Borrowing on credit card makes sense, according to Elizabeth Phillips, director of the Credit Card Research Group, but only for short-term debt. She said: "If you can time it right, you can have 56 days of interest-free credit. The trick is to check which date your monthly statement is sent out, and then make your purchase as close as possible to that date so you would have almost two months before you had to clear

☐ No annual fees: For people who pay off their cards in full each month. Moneyfacts, the money information service, recommends the Alliance &

t's an early bird that catches the worm,

they say. But if you're a private investor

L with an early deal on the Stock Exch-

ange all you could catch is a cold. Sets, the

stock exchange's new electronic trading

system, is causing many shares to be traded at artificially high or low prices. This

problem of wide spreads is particularly acute in the first hour of trading, when

18 million "Sids" in this country may have

it yout by either paying too much for new stylings or by not getting enough for shares they sell. Worst affected are likely to be

clients of execution-only brokers who do not

provide advice on the best timing or price

for a deal. Although many of the deals they

handle are less than £4,000 and would not

normally be put through Sets many brokers receive instructions at the end of a day to buy or sell when the market opens at 8.30

the next morning. Many brokers bundle these deals together and push them

through Sets. Traditionally, buying a share

many private investors do their deals:

Marianne Curphey offers canny shoppers advice

on spreading the cost of festive purchases



Red sea: card-carrying consumers are expected to break spending records this Christmas

have an annual fee and has a 46-day interest-free period. The monthly interest rate for debt is 1.38 per cent, while the annualised APR (which tends to include the annual card fee) is 17.9 per cent.

Other cards that do not have a fee are Liverpool Victoria's Visa card, which has 50 days of interest-free credit, a month-ly interest rate of 1.45 per cent and an APR of 18.9 per cent; and the Goldfish Card with 52 days of interest-free credit, an APR of 19.8 per cent and a monthly interest rate of 1.52 per cent. Alternatively, if you

straight away you can borrow for a few months on a card that has a lower monthly interest rate.

☐ Best buys for short-term

MoneyFacts recommends the Co-operative Bank's Advantage Visa card, which has a very low rate of 0.64 per cent, no fee and an APR of 7.9 per cent on purchases. This, like the 0.79 per cent monthly rate available on the RBS Advanta card, is an introductory rate that will change next year. The Royal Bank of Scotland also has a rate of 0.935 per cent

Gavin Lumsden on a problem built into the system for Sid

Early traders lose in straight Sets

early on was a good idea if you wanted to

profit from a day's rise in the price. But the

price of a blue chip such as Legal &

General, the insurer, can now start off 60-

This week, the London Stock Exchange

was forced to ask brokers to discourage

their clients from trading early as it sorted

out the problem. Exchange officials have

stockbrokers, and new guidance for mem-

L broken the central professional

rule of getting the best price for clients. One

measure under consideration is for the

Exchange to issue warnings not to deal in

certain stocks when they are known to be

It was never meant to be like this. At the

launch of Sets a month ago the exchange

proudly proclaimed that the new system

owever, there are fears that some

brokers may have inadvertently

80p off its natural level.

bers is expected next week.

trading at unrealistic prices.

any private investors do their deals.

Held urgent meetings with the Securities and Futures Authority, which regulates

though this card has an annual fee of £10.

☐ Store cards: Store cards do not compare favourably with such credit card deals. But a store card may be worth having if you are offered a discount as an incentive of 10 per cent or so to take out the card and then pay off the balance in full before any interest is charged.

If you are unable to pay off the balance, then store cards are an expensive way to finance your festive season purchases. The Burton Group

would narrow spreads and actually make share dealing less expensive. It would achieve this by abolishing the market-

maker who made money on the turn of

every deal. Investors would place an order

on an electronic book and wait for it to be matched by another order. To be fair, the

system has achieved this. The average spread for deals after 9.30am has narrowed

from 0.6 per cent to 0.5 per cent. The

problem that the Exchange has found is

that Sets is like an engine that takes a while

natural caution of professional investors

faced with a new system, combined with the

low volume in a market that has turned

bearish after the recent turmoil brought on by crashes in the Far Eastern markets.

are using the old-fashioned market-makers

(now known as retail service providers) and

morning or afternoon, when the pricing

While waiting for some improvement,

Dorothy Perkins, Evans, Principles and Top Shop/Man. charges an APR of 29.9 per cent and a monthly rate of 2.21 per cent if you do not opt to pay off the debt by direct debit.

Likewise the SearsCard. which includes Dolcis. Miss Selfridge, Shoe City, Wallis and Warehouse, charges 29.8 per cent APR on debts not paid by direct debit and a monthly rate of 2.34 per cent. Even Barclaycard, which

charges a £10 annual fee, has a lower interest rate of 1.65 per month (APR 22.9 per cent).

Overdrafts: If the interest on your overdraft is less than the rate on your credit card, it makes sense to dip into overdraft to pay off the card. There is no point running an overdraft and credit card debt simultaneously. However. banks can charge high penalties for customers who go into the red without getting authorisation first.

The lowest rates for authorised overdrafts, according to Moneyfacts, are available from the Alliance & Leicester, Nationwide Building Society. Abbey National, Halifax and Bank of Scotland Banking Direct.

☐ Personal loans: If after six months you are still struggling to pay back the excesses of Christmas, it could be worth changing your credit card debt into a personal loan. Direct Line has one of the cheapest personal loans, with an APR of 12.8 per cent, although you have to be over 22 to qualify. Capital One Direct and Bank of Scotland Banking Direct both have APRs of 12.9 per cent. If you were to take out a loan with the Woolwich, which has an APR of 13.9 per cent, it would cost you £188 a month to repay £5,000 over three years, including insurance.

☐ Switch and cheques: If you would rather keep a closer check on the money leaving your account then both Switch payments and cheques tend to dear within two days. NatWest, which helped to pioneer the Switch card, said: If you make two purchases on Monday, one with Switch and the other by cheque, the Switch payment will be deb-ited on the Tuesday evening and the cheque will clear on Wednesday morning."

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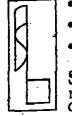
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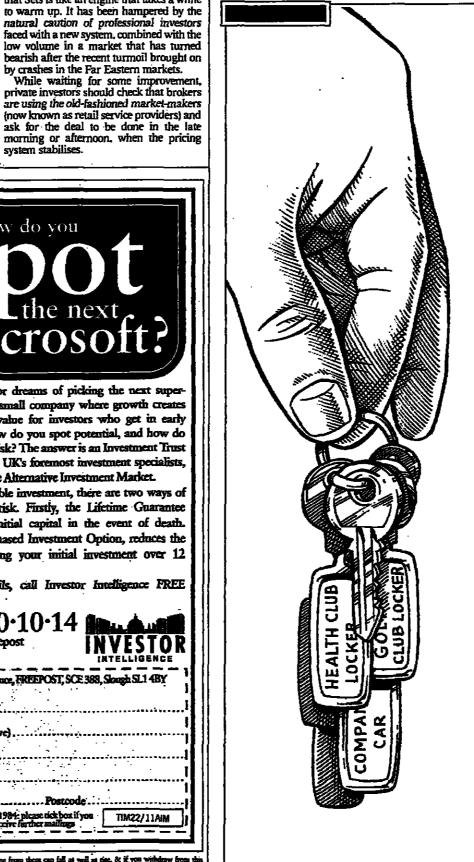
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BEAR ESSENTIALS 62

If you go down to to the sales you're in for a big surprise

WEEKEND

green Budget, de-spite the Treasury's valiant

efforts to reassure nervous taxpayers that the statement

will be "not a long list of policy

armouncements, but rather a

setting-out of various govern-

ment aims". Many are not persuaded that Gordon Brown,

the Chancellor, will be content merely to foreshadow changes rather than introduce immedi-

The Treasury is promising

that there will be no retrospec-

tive measures in the Chancel-

lor's statement. But Maurice Fitzpatrick, of Chantrey Vellacott, the accountants,

says that it is still possible that

the Inland Revenue may inde-

pendently issue press releases

cluded in the 1998 Budget, but

having effect from November-25, 1997. This would enable the

Chancellor to close immediately any loopholes that he finds unusually intolerable.

Mr Fitzpatrick said there

as a precedent: "In October

1996, new rules were introduced for companies buying

back their own shares. These were made applicable from the date of the Inland Revenue

Rumours have emerged this week that company cars and the tax-free pension lump sum

could be within Mr Brown's

sights. Every Chancellor for

the past decade has been

thought to be longing to to

abolish the tax-free pension

lump sum. But any changes

would be likely to be thrown

open for discussion among

interested parties for imple

taxation of company cars.

less tax for their perk

press release."

ate reforms.

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Is the smaller company making a comeback?



Anne Ashworth looks at the likely contents of Brown's consultative Budget

Green feeling prompts nerves



Inherit the earth — at a price

ne of the tax-raising targets for next week's green Budget could be the E26 billion that is inherited each year (Caroline Merrell writes). In spite of the vast fortune changing hands, the Exchequer only manages to raise about £1.4 billion from the 18,000 estates that end up paying inheritance tax. According to research from IFA Promotion, the organisation that promotes independent financial advice, under present rules £900 million of this tax could be avoided. At present only ove Ezia.UUU are laxed. II is alsi possible to give away certain amounts of her estate would have been above the personal pension."

week delivered the

strongest hint yet that it intends to wind down the state

earnings-related pensions

scheme (Serps). Speaking at a

conference announcing pro-

posals for the new-style stake-holder pensions, John Den-

ham, the Pensions Minister,

refused to say whether Serps,

the additional state scheme for

employees without company

schemes, would be continued

money before death without paying tax.
A radical overhaul of the IHT rules could in future hit people such as Susan Opie, above, a 34-year-old book editor with HarperCollins. Ms Opie's grandmother died ten years ago, leaving Ms Opie as the only heir to the estate, the major part of the inheritance was a house in the country. Ms Opie said that the sale of the house raised "several thousand pounds" - the average size of an inheritance today is £18,000. If Ms Opie's grandmother had lived in the South East then it is outle

£215,000 exemption limit. Any amount

above this is taxed at 40 per cent. Ms Opie has recently decided to invest the money, after leaving it languishing in a building society for close to a decade. As deposit rates have not kept up with inflation over this period. Ms Opie's lump sum is now worth far less than it was when she inherited. Ms Opie said: "I decided in the end to put quite a lot of the money in to a personal pension. I was not aware until I went to my financial adviser that

another vexed issue, would also seem to merit further deliberation. At present, the three million people who drive company

that pollution would be reduced if they spent less time at the wheel, he is said to be considering taxing drivers for private mileage. To encourage employees to take public transport rather than drive their company cars, he would abolish the rule forcing workers to pay tax on season tickets provided by employers. However, observers point out that a private mileage basis for the taxation of vehicles would be as open to abuse as the old system and would create a bureaucratic nightmare for

payroll departments. Rumoured targets for im-mediate action include various capital gains and inheritance tax concessions. Potentially exempt transfers (Pets) are seen as especially vulnerable. The Pet rules permit you to transfer an infinite amount of assets to your heirs. Provided you survive for seven years, these gifts will escape inheritance tax. John Battersby, of KPMG. the accountant, believes that Pets could either be abolished or made subject to a cash limit.

Fitzpatrick the capital gains tax allowance of £6,500 may also be vulnerable. Each year an individual can make tax-free capital gains up to this limit. He said: "Some would argue that there is no logical reason why such an allowance should exist. Capital gains are now taxed at the same rates as income tax. This means that there is no necessity for a separate capital gains tax allowance.

There is pressure on Mr mentation at a later date. The Brown to provide some further detail on the individual savings account (Isa), his proposed replacement for the Pep and the Tessa. However, Mr Brown's wish to ensure that the new account appeals to the naid is annarentiv delav if their business mileage is ing an announcement.



Anne Ashworth on the Government's pension dilemma

HOME BUYING

Predictions for house prices in 1998

INVESTMENT

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European smaller companies. A tasty dish?

BUSINESS NEWS PAGES



WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

Pension changes could lead to the end of Serps

more to save for their retirement. Many part-timers, women and others with irregular earnings end up relying

sic pension scheme and Serps. Stakeholder pensions are

the current state system as well as occupational schemes. The DSS envisages that contri-butions for stakeholder pensions should be deducted from earnings at source. The money deducted should be invested by financial services companies to provide an adequate fund for retirement. The Government suggested investment trusts and unit trusts as pos-

sible investment vehicles.

involving the mis-selling of hundreds of thousands of personal pensions, the Government is keen to ensure that those companies which provide stakeholder pensions do so within a certain number of proscribed criteria — so-called "Kitemarking" of products. Mr Denham clearly indicat-

ed that the companies which failed to clear up their pen-sions mis-selling problems quickly enough would be barred from being involved in providing the new pension.

Mr Denham refused to be drawn on whether there had to be any degree of compulsion in the new schemes. He did indicate that many within the financial services community believed that compulsion was

CAROLINE MERRELL

indefinitely. He pointed out that the Govon the State in their old age. ernment's manifesto only pro-mised that Serps would be According to figures from the Department of Social Security. maintained for those in the about ten million people in the scheme at present, in Opposiworking population rely only tion, Labour was savagely criton basic and Serps pensions. ical of Conservative plans to privatise entirely both the ba-

The Government wants the private sector to work towards providing low-cost, flexible and secure second-tier pen-sions. It believes stakeholder

aimed at encouraging millions In light of the recent scandal Far East forecast still stormy A siun economies, including Hong Kong, may be on the verge of an economic meltdown that could

send share prices tumbling worldwide, according to some Far East fund managers. Many are increasing their investment in bonds, a traditional haven when stock markets are turbulent, and are urging investors to do the same.

The turmoil in Asia has been well publicised, particularly last month, when falls in Hong Kong sent London's FISE 100 into a nosedive. Nevertheless, some optimists have started predicting a turnaround in the region.

This cuts no ice with Ashok Shah, senior portfolio manager with Old Mutual Asset Managers, who has just visited Asia and is convinced that the region lacks the leadership to steer it towards recovery. He said: "Too many politicians and industrialists have personally benefited from economic policies which have left their countries up to their neck in debt, their stock markets in ruins and their currencies devalued. They have two options. They could take the medicine now and go through pain. or die - I believe they have taken the death option."

As a result, he says, property values in Thailand, South Korea, Indonesia and Malaysia will soon crash, dragging their banks, which have lent heavily on real estate development, nearer bankruptcy. Banks are already struggling because many of the companies they lent to have overexpanded and cannot generate suffi-

cient exports to pay their debts.

Mr Shah believes that traditional methods of valuing the region's com-panies are useless. He said: "Whether you look at earnings per share, price-earnings ratios, cashflow or dividend yield, you just don't know what you are



Hong Kong residents are still shopping but also spend a lot of time praying

buying." He scotches any idea of buying at the bottom of the market for at least another year, by which time normal conditions may have resumed.

Meanwhile, Hong Kong and Japan are under pressure. The former British colony is desperately trying to maintain its currency peg with the US dollar in the face of a concerted effort by international speculators. However, Mr Shah believes the peg will be abandoned within six months as high interest rates bite into the population's pockets, even though this will make the high level of debt increasingly burdensome. As the recession grows and inflation falls, there will be less motivation to invest in property, the backbone of the Hong Kong economy. In Japan, already the

victim of an eight-year recession, the outlook is just as bad as exports to its Asian neighbours dry up.

With the darkening stormdouds in the East, the rest of the world should not feel immune, says Mr Shah. Where they were once entrepreneurial, Asian manufacturers are now desperate and will sell their goods for any price they can get. The result is bad news for manufacturers worldwide, but good news for Western consumers who will get cheap goods and low inflation. However, this is just the environment where our own stock markets will suffer. Bonds and shares in blue-chip companies with no Asian interests are the best options.

GAVIN LUMSDEN

